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JULY 1913

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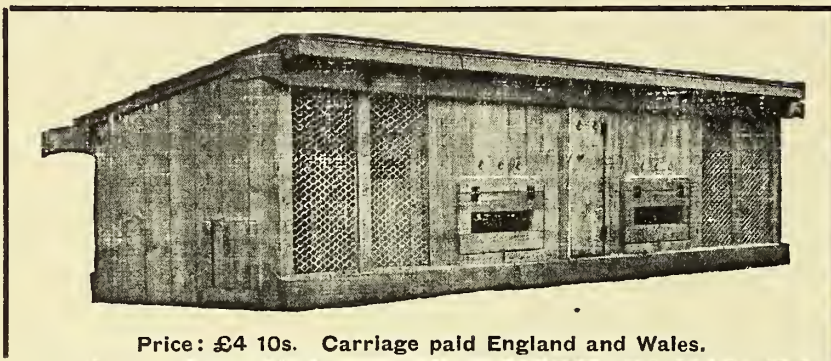
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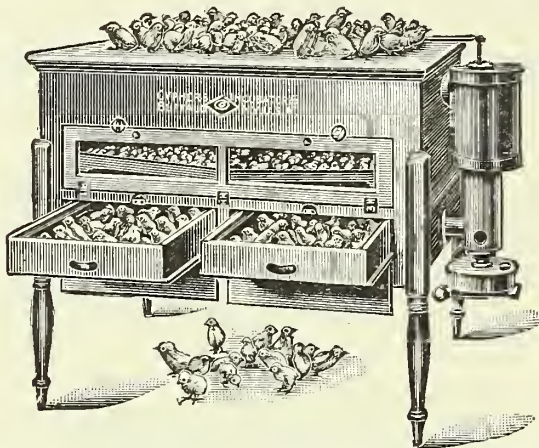
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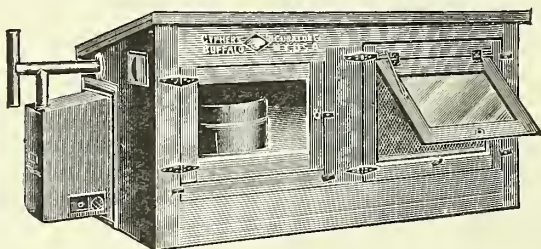
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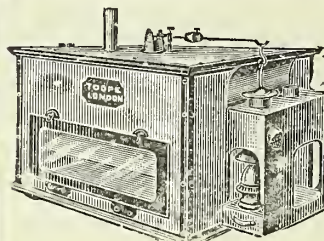
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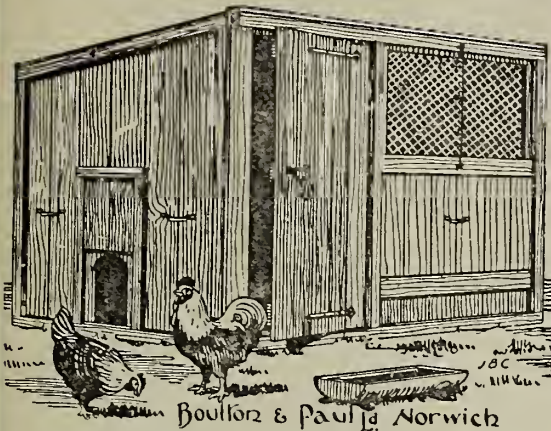


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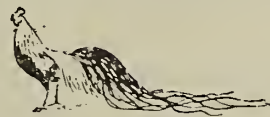
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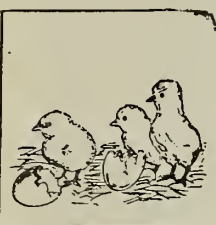
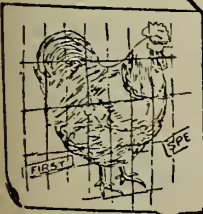


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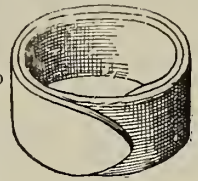
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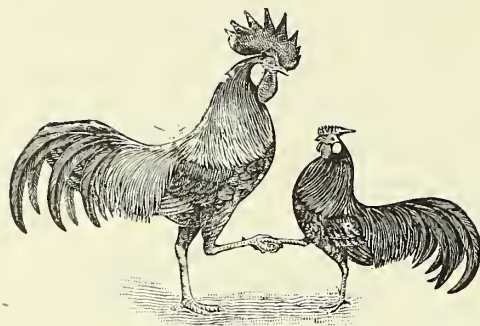
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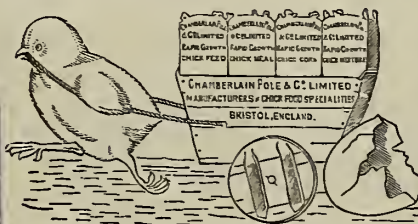
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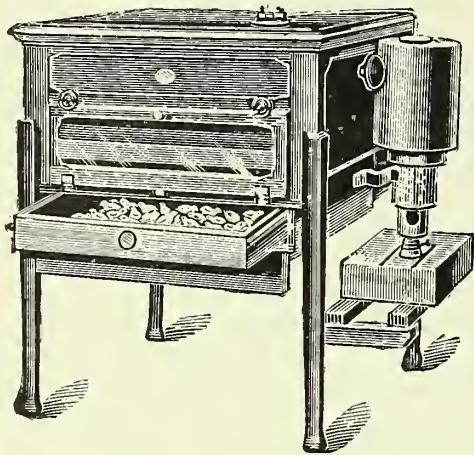
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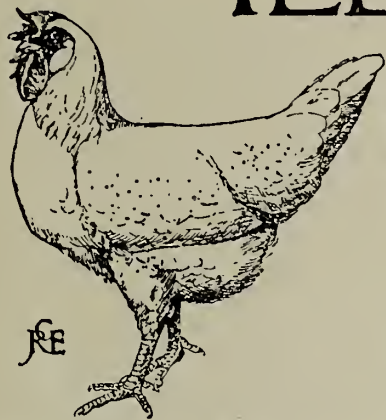
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Her Royal Highness is a member of the Committee of the National Poultry Organisation Society, and takes a very keen interest in all matters appertaining to the welfare of the poultry industry.

THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD



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EDITORIAL NOTICES.

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The Editor would like to hear from readers on any Poultry Topics, and all Queries addressed to the paper will be answered by experts in the several departments. The desire is to help those who are in difficulty regarding the management of their poultry, and accordingly no charge for answering such queries is made.

The Annual subscription to the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD at home and abroad is 8s., including postage, except to Canada, in which case it is 7s. Cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.

The ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD is published on the first of every month. Should readers experience any difficulty in securing their copies promptly they are requested to communicate immediately with the Editor.

The latest date for receiving advertisements is the 20th of the month preceding date of issue.

The utmost care is exercised to exclude all advertisements of a doubtful character. If any reader has substantial grounds for complaint against an advertiser he is requested to communicate at once with the Editor.

The Women's Side.

In the present issue we have attempted to indicate how important a part women have played, and still play in the poultry industry. Whilst it may perhaps be conceded that in some modern developments men have taken a leading place, it is not too much to say that but for the influence of the opposite sex the record would have been totally different to what it is, and less satisfactory. Whilst men were engaged in wars, in sport, or in business, giving little or no attention to the more mundane questions which concerned domestic life, the women were quietly and steadily at work conserving all that was connected with the home. Hence as fowls were creatures that they could easily handle, they received special attention. In that we find an explanation why, in nearly every country, women have been the poultry keepers. When once, however, cock fighting was a popular sport, or, at a later period, exhibitions became popular, the men came upon the scene to a larger extent, absorbing, as is their wont, attention, and causing many people to forget the basis of all, namely, food supply. All this time women went on with their work, regarding first the practical and leaving the ornamental on one side. For that we owe much to their quiet determination. Life may be illumined by the one, but is maintained by the other. The former is often temporary and evanescent, whilst the latter is permanent and of supreme importance. For that reason women's

work in poultry deserves more recognition than has been accorded to it within recent years.

Advancing Opportunities.

The section of womankind to whom these references apply, are such as already live on the land as wives and daughters of farmers. In cases of that kind probably the opportunities were never so great as at the present time. Increasing demand, better marketing facilities, and greater knowledge, are all available to one sex as much as the other. Success depends upon how far these are realised, and cannot be secured without proper application. There must be conformity with modern conditions, and association with modern requirements. It will, therefore, depend in large measure upon the adaptability of that section of the community how far results are achieved.

Much has been said and written in recent years as to women's share in specialised poultry keeping, and in this has appeared a good deal of nonsense. Some time ago we read a brochure written by a woman, which, if it were half true, would mean that the methods advocated could hardly fail to yield an excellent living to anyone taking up poultry keeping on those lines. Yet after several years experience she

has been seeking to obtain a situation. Probably a man might have done no better. Generally speaking in such directions what is impossible to a man is equally so to a woman. And where, in many cases which have come within our observations, the specialist women workers fail is in neglecting to develop the cultivation side as part of the operations.

Unless that is done failure is bound to be the result, no matter the sex of those responsible. That this class of poultry breeder can be abundantly successful is unquestionable as is proved by several notable examples — but these have conformed to what is an essential and natural factor.

A Question of Capital.

Recently we have been reading a book, which shall be nameless, in which the author sought to minimise the influence of money in the shape of capital. With the arguments put forth it is not our present purpose to deal. Rather do we desire to show that capital is only part of the equipment of the poultryman. In fact, some of the most successful breeders started with very little money. Their capital was experience, which is of the greater importance. From time to time have we been approached by men with what they regarded as brilliant ideas. All they

wanted was to secure capitalists to back them. Frequently have we learnt that it was all idea; [they had no solid experience

May 17th 1913

HATFIELD HOUSE,

HATFIELD,

HERTS.



HATFIELD

Dear Mr. Brown,

I write to wish

success to the special women's number of the Illustrated

Poultry Record. There is no better field open for women's work than is to be found in Poultry Keeping & I am sure that anything that tends

to bring this subject before

the Public is of great value

Yours truly,

Hubert Anthony



HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

(An interesting article from whose pen appears on page 438.)

[Copyright.]

behind them. What they really wanted was money to enable them to test their theories, which is a totally different proposition. One of the most disastrous failures in so-called intensive poultry farming within recent times had thousands of pounds available. There was no stint in that direction. In fact there was too much money, as this led to operations on a scale far and away in excess of the ability of those concerned to handle. We are led to these observations by the fact that we are evidently, as mentioned previously, in for an era of intensive poultry keeping. The danger is that those who are led to enter upon such operations forget that money is supplemental to the personal factor, and can never take its place.

San Francisco, 1915.

California intends to out-do herself a couple of years hence, when a great exhibition is to be held at San Francisco, to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal. Among other proposals is one to hold a great poultry exhibition, and we believe the promoters desire to make it the greatest of its kind ever held. While every effort to secure the unity and promote the comity of nations deserves the heartiest support, and for that reason we hope that suggested may be well supported, there is another side to the question which deserves consideration, namely, that numbers may be a hindrance rather than a help, except to those who are competitors. From an educational point of view these huge conglomerations are a mistake, and never leave the same impression upon the minds of ordinary visitors that do smaller and more modest collections. Of course, from the competitive side the result is all that could be desired. But where the numbers are in excess the effect is to blur all impressions into indefiniteness. If there were, say, a couple of hundred Buff Orpingtons or White Leghorns in a show, the visitor would actually learn less than if half a dozen was the limit. How far European fanciers will support the San Francisco show remains to be seen. It is a long way to send, a longer way to go, and an expensive business. What might be done, is to arrange a complete exhibit of typical British breeds of poultry. But that is, another story.

"He wants to be killed very bad."

In the *Poultry Chronicle* of nearly sixty years ago, is a story which is worth repetition. A writer says: "A friend of mine was once accosted by his hind with 'Please, Sir, shall we kill the pig next Monday?' 'Why, no, John,' was the answer, 'I think we shall be too busy.' 'Please Sir, he wants to be killed very bad,' was the reply. Upon which my friend rejoined, 'Oh, if the pig wishes it, I have no objection to grant it as a personal favour.'" The meaning of the word "want" is obvious. How many poultry of all kinds in the United Kingdom would be slaughtered if end of profitable service involved termination of actual life, it is impossible to say. Probably more than is commonly supposed. The safe principle to adopt is, that this process shall be carried out at the right time, one, however, that is very difficult to learn especially by amateurs or beginners. These observations are induced by a visit paid to a country market, at which seventy-five per cent. of the fowls alive and dead had been kept too long, whether chickens or adults. They were past the stage when the flesh was at its maximum of quality and quantity. Their "want" to be killed had been ignored. This is one of the directions in which a clearer recognition of market requirements and conditions is necessary, and would do much to enhance the returns obtained. It is also needless to say that at this season of the year there are large numbers of adult hens which "want" to be killed. Their room would be much better than their company.

Putting on the Screw.

If farmers would unite and take determined action the fox question would soon be solved, as they could in this way soon make the hunts adopt a different attitude. As isolated units they can be ignored as in the past. We are glad to see, therefore, that at the last meeting of the South Herefordshire Farmers' Union, the following resolution was carried:

"That in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the South Herefordshire Farmers' Union (which now numbers over 1,000 members), reasonable compensation for all losses in poultry through the depredations of foxes should be paid for substantiated claims to farmers in South Herefordshire."

The stories told at this meeting of the treatment received from the local hunt, reveal how serious is the present state of things. One speaker stated that he had 27 fowls killed within 30 yards of his barn, and although a



The Marchioness of Salisbury.

[Copyright.]

The President of the National Poultry Organization Society, who has done so much for the advancement of the poultry industry in this country.

member of the Hunt Poultry Committee was satisfied that a fox had killed them, said, "We don't pay farmers." As an indication of the contemptuous and unfair manner in which farmers are treated, another speaker stated that his wife had a letter from the Poultry Committee saying, that in future all claims must be made through the landlord. We all know what that means. The impudence of it almost commands admiration. It would be just as reasonable if a purchaser of a farmer's crop or stock declined to pay his debts except "through the landlord." If farmers all over the country would copy the South Hereford policy and act accordingly recalcitrant Hunts would speedily be brought to their senses.

Poultry Disease in Flanders.

Our contemporary *Chasse et Pêche* has recently published alarming accounts of mortality among chickens in the Londerzeel district of Belgium. It is stated that in some instances the mortality has reached 80 per cent. of the birds hatched. The effect upon the poultry industry in that part of East Flanders is very serious indeed. During the last dozen years the growth of poultry breeding there has been phenomenal,

as shown in Mr. Edward Brown's report on the poultry industry in Belgium, mainly with a view to the production of winter fowls for the German markets. It is specially interesting to note that Mr. Brown expressed himself very strongly that the methods adopted were dangerous in the extreme, and uttered a word of warning as to the results which has been abundantly justified. The cause would appear to be what is generally true in all epidemics of this nature, namely, intensification of poultry without corresponding increase of cultivation, the effect of which, continued over a series of years, is seen in tainted soil, so that the vitality of the birds is reduced, their powers of resistance



Mrs. H. J. Tennant

[Copyright.]

Who has taken a keen interest in all women's movements and particularly in poultry breeding at her place at Rolvenden, Kent.

impaired, and they are swept away by disease. This lesson is one which has to be learnt by bitter experience. When it strikes at the very foundations of what has become an important industry, its influence is wide reaching.

WOMEN AND THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

BY HER EXCELLENCY, THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

THE efforts which are now being made all over the United Kingdom and Ireland to promote and systematise the poultry industry must be of especial interest to women, seeing the opportunities possessed by them in connection with the poultry industry, for on many farms they are the poultry-keepers. In our own county of Aberdeen, in Canada, and during later years in Ireland, it has been abundantly evident that, so far as those living on the land are concerned, this branch of live stock is one which [specially comes within the woman's sphere of operations, and, therefore, is capable of exerting a great influence upon her economic advancement. The success already achieved in Ireland is gratifying in the extreme, making for the prosperity of its people to an extent not fully realised, for it is hard to convince people that Ireland supplies Great Britain with more table poultry than all the other countries put together. And we confidently anticipate there is still plenty of room for expansion.

One striking fact presents itself, namely, that the progress made has been in large measure due to the earnestness and zeal of the poultry teachers and instructresses who have, for the last ten years, been engaged under the Department of Agriculture for Ireland and the county authorities in carrying applied poultry knowledge to the villages throughout the length and breadth of the country. If we compare present day conditions with those met with twenty years ago, the change brought about in the class of poultry kept and the methods followed, the change is indeed remarkable. The growth of exports from Ireland of eggs and poultry, records in cash values how much has already been done. I hope and confidently believe that when Scottish developments have exerted their full influence a like story will there be told. And I am sure that this depends largely upon how far the women are reached, more especially in the Highlands and Islands of that country.

Among the many impressions left upon the minds of Lord Aberdeen and myself by the poultry conference held in Dublin two years ago were that the day had passed when poultry was regarded as a negligible quantity by the agricultural and trading community, and that women were at last receiving encouragement and help from the other sex which had been long denied them. This pursuit is no longer merely a bye interest, but a business, to be conducted on business lines, in which the measure of success to a large degree is dependant upon careful attention to detail. Adoption

of better methods means enhanced returns, whilst negligence results in loss to all concerned, a heavy loss in relation to the total sum received. For that reason Lord Aberdeen and I have always regarded systematic education and demonstration as essential factors to improvement. Our Irish experience abundantly confirms this view, and it is satisfactory to note that the Aberdeen and other Scottish agricultural colleges are now prosecuting their work on similar lines. In some of the districts of north-east Scotland, however, the farm conditions are totally different, and the methods adopted must be varied accordingly.

It is generally recognised that women are naturally more attentive to detail than the men, and that as poultry-keeping is made up of smaller operations than other branches of live stock of general farming, they are specially qualified to undertake it. That fact gives great hopes for the future, that is when they have attained a fuller realisation of the importance of attention equally to production and marketing. Where men have heretofore had an advantage is that they are disposed to take wider and larger views, and have given greater attention to breeding problems and marketing questions. They are usually prepared to take greater risks than are women. I firmly believe that with added experience and the consciousness of responsibility which will result, a great change will follow. That has been within my own observations in other branches. When once women are brought into direct contact with business problems they then look at questions differently.

Such suggestions are now made in the firm assurance that the future of home egg and poultry production in the British Isles is largely bound up with the way in which women realise the opportunities presenting themselves, not only in so far as management of the stock is concerned, but also all questions relative to preparation for sale and actual disposal of the produce. In certain branches of the work men's co-operation is necessary. What has heretofore been a great hindrance is that women have not always had scope for their energies and enterprise. The way is now open to them, and our hope is that they will show their capacity to grasp the opportunity and win a great triumph.

Isabel Aberdeen

THE ETERNAL FEMININE IN THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

BY EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S.

"WE seek to make your interests our interests, and ultimately our interests your interests," was an advertisement of a well known London firm which caught my eye recently on the underground railway. The suggestion here made is one of very wide application. It is to that union of effort and interest we must look for solution of many problems affecting the poultry industry, as well as other branches of work. My purpose, therefore, is to show that for the full realization of

women instructresses for poultry teaching, which is, in my judgment, a profound mistake. The countries which have made the greatest advances in this subject are those in which the male influence has had its full share. To use alone one sex leads to very partial development. The poultry industry is a man's business as well as a woman's; in some directions more so.

Were we, however, to attempt limiting this work to men we should deservedly fail, and



MARY, DUCHESS OF HAMILTON.

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(Whose model poultry farm at Easton Park was described in last month's ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD.)

our efforts there must be no sexual division of forces. It is not a question of men's work *or* of women's work, but of men's *and* of women's work. Such has not been the case in the past. Far too often do we find division in this way, productively and educationally. I have enough sex pride to believe that any pursuit relegated to women alone will be dwarfed and atrophied as compared with what might be, and that it will thus fail to realise its full possibilities. On the other hand, were women to be excluded we should cut off much that is of supreme importance. Therefore, I have always claimed equal opportunity for both sexes. In some directions a tendency has been manifested to use only

even if a measure of success were attained it would be a very one-sided business. The fact must be recognised that in many directions women form the dominant factor, as they are the poultry-keepers *par excellence*. It is within their sphere that the fowls are found. They do the work and take the money thus earned. Up to a point that is everything to be desired. The truth is that on the smaller farms and holdings of this and every country with which I am acquainted, were it not for the wives and daughters of farmers the production of eggs and poultry would be very small indeed, that is, so far as non-specialised operations are concerned. The moment that stage is passed, and

a broader basis is adopted, then men must come into it in one way or another. Each sex will succeed to a greater extent if their limitations are realised.

The question here raised is of greater complication than is generally supposed, as shown more fully in later paragraphs. What we have first to consider is the position of the farmer's wife and daughter, or the farmeress, to whom is relegated the poultry kept on the farm. It is upon these we must depend for the bulk of our supplies, more especially in those sections of the country where occupations are small. We must recognise as a fact that the feminine section of the agricultural community has failed to advance adequately in number of fowls kept and methods adopted. Probably the men folk have been largely responsible by their want of help and of sympathy, as a result of which the progress made has been less than it might and ought to have been. While it is true, therefore, that in many instances farmers' wives would keep more fowls were it not for the opposition of their husbands, I have been forced to the conclusion that these form a small minority of the whole, and that so long as the returns are sufficient to give the amount of pin or dress money desired, they are content to keep but a fraction of fowls that the farm as a whole could reasonably carry. The explanation is to be found in the labour involved. With demands upon time and energy for household duties and perhaps a dairy, it is evident that the margin for looking after a lot of poultry is comparatively small. As a consequence, wherever women are alone responsible for the poultry, these are kept almost entirely around the homestead. Under such conditions portable houses are used very little indeed, and without these there cannot be the extensions we desire to see.

A suggestion has been made that if the poultry are made the charge of a daughter, when available, more can be done. With that all will agree. For instance, a writer recently in the *World's Work*, says, "I have contended in the past that the money in egg production is to be made with the largest amount of profit by 'the intelligent farmer's intelligent daughter.'" True as this may be, there is another aspect which is often forgotten, namely, how long it would so continue. We are here up against a problem which is universal, namely, that many forms of industry and business when taken up by women are but a temporary pursuit, whereas in the case of men these form their life's work. Marriage in the latter case is an incentive to redoubled efforts, whereas in the former, it often stops the work altogether. Or, as was said to me by a progressive farmer some time ago, one who believed

in the profitableness of poultry, but was too busy to undertake the work himself, "If I allowed my daughter to extend the poultry side in accordance with her desires, spending a fair amount of capital on plant, she may in a year or two get married, as I should wish her to do. What will happen then? I should be left with a business and no one to look after it, and for which I have not time myself. My wife has plenty to occupy her fully." That is an aspect of the question not to be ignored, regarding which no solution is forthcoming. The experience might be good for the daughter, but entail a heavy loss upon the father, who thinks it safer to limit the scope of her operations.

We must, therefore, depend chiefly upon the farmer's wife, unless and until the men can be brought more into the scheme, and undertake broader phases of the work than are possible to the women. It is for that reason we may claim poultry-keeping as necessitating joint effort. Where the difficulty arises is entirely a question of money. The farmer's wife prefers to keep only as many fowls as she can effectively control, and retain the entire thing in her own hands, on the ground that if her husband came into it he would want a share of the proceeds, perhaps more than he deserves, or has any right to receive. I cannot see why such cannot be equitably arranged. If, say, on present lines by keeping fifty or sixty hens, she earns, say, £30 per annum, the number is doubled or trebled, and she restricts her labour to chicken rearing, preparing for market, etc., might not the returns be halved without question? Then we should speedily see a very considerable extension. It would be a united enterprise.

I have recently been reading a book entitled, "Women's place in Rural Economy," by M. P. de Vuyst, the Belgian Director General of Agriculture, an English translation of which has been published by Messrs. Blackie & Son, Limited, which gives much food for thought. What impresses the reader of this valuable work is that much of the limitation of women's work arises from their lack of association with others like unto themselves, so that they have not that interchange of idea and experience which is so beneficial. In too many cases they are dependant almost entirely on the male members of their households for touch with the outer world. That being so their outlook is narrow in the extreme. The author of this excellent book urges the advantage of association in rural districts for special and social purposes, exactly on similar lines to what is common among the men folk. I have sometimes wondered why women have not shown as great a keenness as men for co-operative marketing, even though

some of the most successful depôts promoted by the National Poultry Organisation Society were largely due to female initiative. May it not be that the fear of losing the one opportunity for meeting with their fellows at the weekly market accounts for this feeling? If so, we should seek to meet the need in other ways. Associated effort on the part of men and women respectively may solve many difficulties.

There is one further consideration which is commended for consideration ere this side of the subject is dismissed, and which strengthens the argument in favour of joint action on the part of farmers and their wives, namely, that to make a success of poultry-keeping on commercial lines cultivation must form the major part of the operations, and the fowls be linked with it as would other stock. The longer our experience the more evidence is obtained as to the fact here stated. My own idea is that the rotation should be one to four, by which is meant that there shall be four times as much land as the fowls need occupy, and that three-fourths shall be fully cultivated. Such cultivation

tion is not and cannot in the main ever be the work of farmers' wives or daughters. Were the poultry-keeping systematised the two sides of the house would work together in the closest manner possible. The husband would feel that if the stock of fowls or other poultry was below the reasonable capacity of the land, he was being defrauded of the manurial influence, and on the other hand, the goodwife would realise that any failure in this way was not doing justice to the farm as a whole. She would not interfere with the work of cultivation, yet help to promote it to the fullest extent. Men are naturally more disposed to undertake risks than are women, and look at questions with a

wider scope, whereas women are superior in their attention to detail. It is by the combination of these faculties that success will be achieved.

There are other directions in which women have a field of operations wherein they can find full scope for their energy and skill. Of these there are many examples. Some of the most successful poultry breeders are women, who have won large rewards as a result of pluck and determination, in which they have held their own with their male rivals, whether as fanciers or utilitarians. Much more can be done in this way. But, as is equally true with men, the



A Mixed Flock.

qualities which make for success in this line are not given to all, and are exceptional. It is not correct that what one has done another can do. Frequently the reverse is the case. There are men and women who by intuition, plus a little experience, seem to get at once to the heart of things, whereas others would never make successful stock breeders if they were in the business for a decade. Their forte is in other directions. Given the capacity and knowledge, women can do much in this way, and there is no reason why the number so engaged should not be largely increased. Many women, married or unmarried, could add substantially to their incomes, especially when living where

there are farms or land available, and when they are not entirely dependant upon the proceeds for a living, desiring to augment the returns. The same is also true on the utility side. Where so many have broken down is that the scope of operations was not sufficient to yield enough to live upon after payment of expenses, and thus there came a steady drain upon the capital, and final ruin. Such as are provided for otherwise should be spared from this danger.

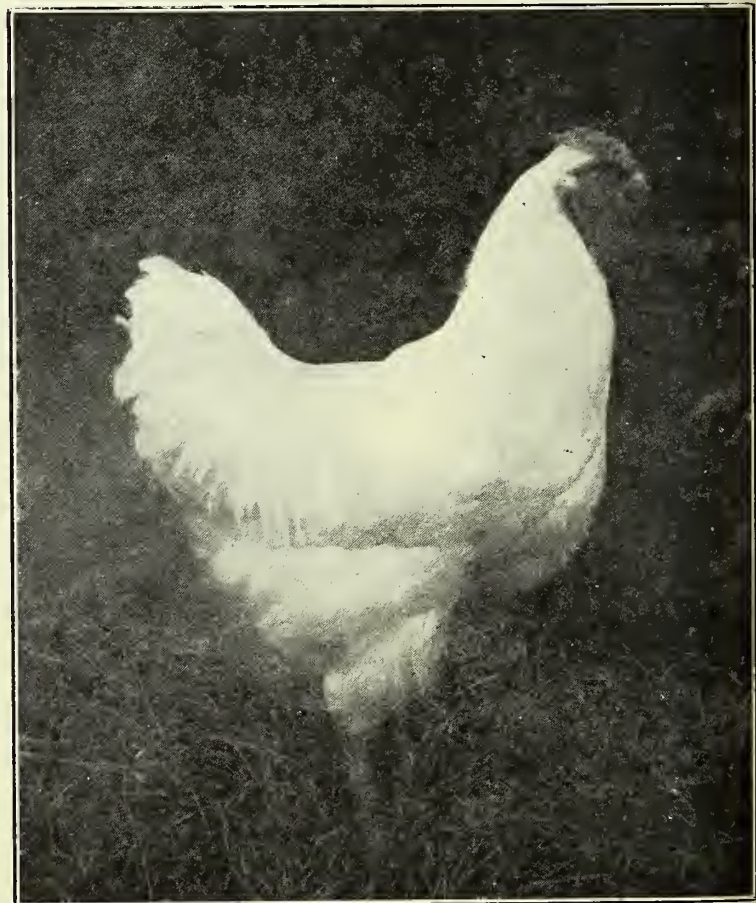
We can hardly blame women if they turn attention to what may be termed the lighter branches of poultry-keeping. By that it is not suggested they are incapable of hard and even laborious work, for their efforts are often heavier than many men realise. There are, however, directions for which men are more suited, such as poultry fattening, duck and goose farming, egg production on a large scale; in short, whatever requires continuous labour. Occasionally a woman is found who has the physical energy and will for such work, but that can only be when she has not a multitude of domestic and other duties. A man undertaking any such enterprises would give his whole time to it. Unless a woman can do so she cannot hope to succeed, even if she is strong enough for such a task. Therefore, I have generally advised taking up the lighter and more remunerative sides, such as breeding of stock birds, sale of eggs for hatching, and day-old chicks, in all of which branches there are fields of opportunity which have only just been touched, nothing more.

There is another side in which I should like to see a trial made, namely, in respect to co-operative marketing. As I have already pointed out, some of the most successful smaller depôts have been run by ladies. In one or two instances nearly all the members are women. As a rule, however, the place and responsibility of the fair sex have not been recognised, and the men have "bossed" the concern. Perhaps we are given to that sort of thing. At meetings when provisional committees were being formed, it has often seemed as if women were regarded as incapable, and only added as a last resort. That is a mistake. What I have frequently wished to see was that the women folk should run these local societies in many districts where the producing members are of that sex, and show what they can do in this direction. That there would be advantages in other ways is evident. I do not suggest that this could be done in societies, covering a larger area, for it is there that men's work appears to be specially required.

Reference has already been made to the use of women as instructresses, and for certain classes of poultry-keeping they are much better than men. Discrimination is, however, neces-

sary. There are many counties where to employ women, as has sometimes been done simply because they are cheaper, or from a desire to prevent extension of the industry on broader lines, is foolish in the extreme. Poultry-keeping differs totally from dairying in this respect, in that breeding and management on an extensive basis are essential to its development. We do not want round pegs in square holes. Where, however, the conditions are favourable, then women can often exert a wider influence than men, but we do not want a continuance of the old time notion that the poultry side of farm operations is purely women's work.

It cannot be said that the results of employment of poultry women have been altogether satisfactory, although there are exceptions to prove the rule. Many attempts have been made in this direction, but the success has been very partial. I cannot but suggest that the training has been too superficial, or that the equipment was small compared with the requirements. Some of those who have succeeded best but prove what is here suggested. At the same time my own view is that we have not in Britain got hold of the right class of women for this work. In Ireland it is totally different. Or where we did so, before long some young fellows realised their merits and persuaded them that a change of scene was desirable.



A Winner of many Prizes.

A White Wyandotte cock, the property of Miss Edwards, an article by whom appears on page 447.

SCOTTISH WOMEN AND SCOTTISH POULTRY.

By MISS KINROSS.

(West of Scotland College Poultry Farm, Kilmarnock.)

N such a progressive age as the present one, when women are taking their place in the world's work, the question: "What are we to do? What is our special vocation?" naturally arises. To those women who are certain that they could thoroughly give their mind to poultry-keeping, I would unhesitatingly say, take it up seriously as a profession in any of its various branches. The number of women now engaged in it is on the increase.

I propose to say a little on the various branches in which women have great opportunities of doing good work, and for which they are eminently qualified.

FIRSTLY:—Women are being employed more and as teachers by the various Colleges and County Councils in Great Britain. In Scotland particularly, of which I have special knowledge, the management of the poultry on farms, small holdings, and crofts, is already entirely under the care of women, and at no distant date, with the creation of new holdings and crofts, poultry will occupy a prominent position. If the best results are to be obtained, the women will require to be taught the best methods of management. In order to do this, it will be necessary to give the information at their own places, and, therefore, the teaching will consist of visiting the farms. The poultry-keeper will take more kindly to a visit from one of her own sex. Women engaged in teaching must have a wide experience in the work and must exercise infinite tact in dealing with the poultry-keeper in order to overcome a certain amount of prejudice which at present exists.

I believe the teaching of poultry by the right women in this way will eventually bring about marked success in increased production both of eggs and better table fowls. I would, therefore, impress upon women the great necessity of being thoroughly experienced and trained to undertake the duties of teaching under trying conditions. Above all things, they require tact and common-sense, and to be perfectly healthy in order to travel through the country in all kinds of weather.

SECONDLY:—Management of poultry on gentlemen's home farms. Here a woman has great scope and opportunity of doing good work. In many cases the dairy work of the farm is also associated with that of the poultry-keeping. Poultry are kept for the requirements of the household. They are reared for egg production; for table chickens at all seasons; a few ducklings and turkeys being also reared. On many of those home farms at the present time, the poultry management is undertaken by men who, instead of keeping in view the necessary requirements of the house, develop the stock into exhibition poultry. This, I consider, is a mistake. Women are much less likely to do so and the house will consequently be better supplied.

Women undertaking the management on the above farms must possess a good general knowledge of the various branches, and here there are many openings where good salaries can be obtained and where much good work could be done by intelligent women. At the present day, on many of these home farms, eggs and table poultry are extremely scarce at the very season when they are most desired. The stock is good but the management is bad. I hope to see more women engaged in this branch. There is splendid scope attached to it in being able to produce eggs and fowls for the table at all seasons of the year; fine ducklings in season, and first class turkeys for the festive season.

THIRDLY:—Poultry on the ordinary farm, small holding, and croft. On these, poultry-keeping offers the very greatest possibilities for women. It is here that I should like to see women more enthusiastic over the work. It is one way in which women could find active, healthy, absorbing employment, and live at home, which is to be preferred to going out to seek employment in other channels, and possibly engaged at very confining work, frequently for a mere pittance. If farmers' daughters could be roused more and more to take a



A well-known Kentish lady who runs a very large holding in the county, all the labour of which she does unaided.

keen interest in the poultry and to realise the possibilities in their sphere alike of profit and pleasure; to take it up more seriously on their own and to conduct it as a business on the farm, they would be doing a great work in the interest of the industry and of the country generally. It is the many farm poultry-keepers with a thorough knowledge, and not a few poultry-keepers pure and simple, who will greatly increase the home production. They have the land, practically speaking, free; all the advantages of scope and fresh ground for the birds; much less expense for food and ideal conditions for work, and yet only a very small number of farmers' daughters of the country are interested in the fowls at all. They want to be taught methods by which the work will be agreeable. If the great majority who could quite well undertake the management of the poultry, were roused to a sense of their duty and opportunity, egg-production would be bound to increase, and they would find the work both interesting and remunerative. For women at home and living in the heart of the country, it is one of the finest occupations. Again, with the creation of small holdings, the management of the poultry will devolve upon the women folk. To enable them to make their duties pleasurable, to run their poultry at a minimum of cost and labour, instruction must be taken to their homes, as such women have little time or means to go in search of instruction at any institution. They must be taught to utilise the produce of the holding to the best advantage.

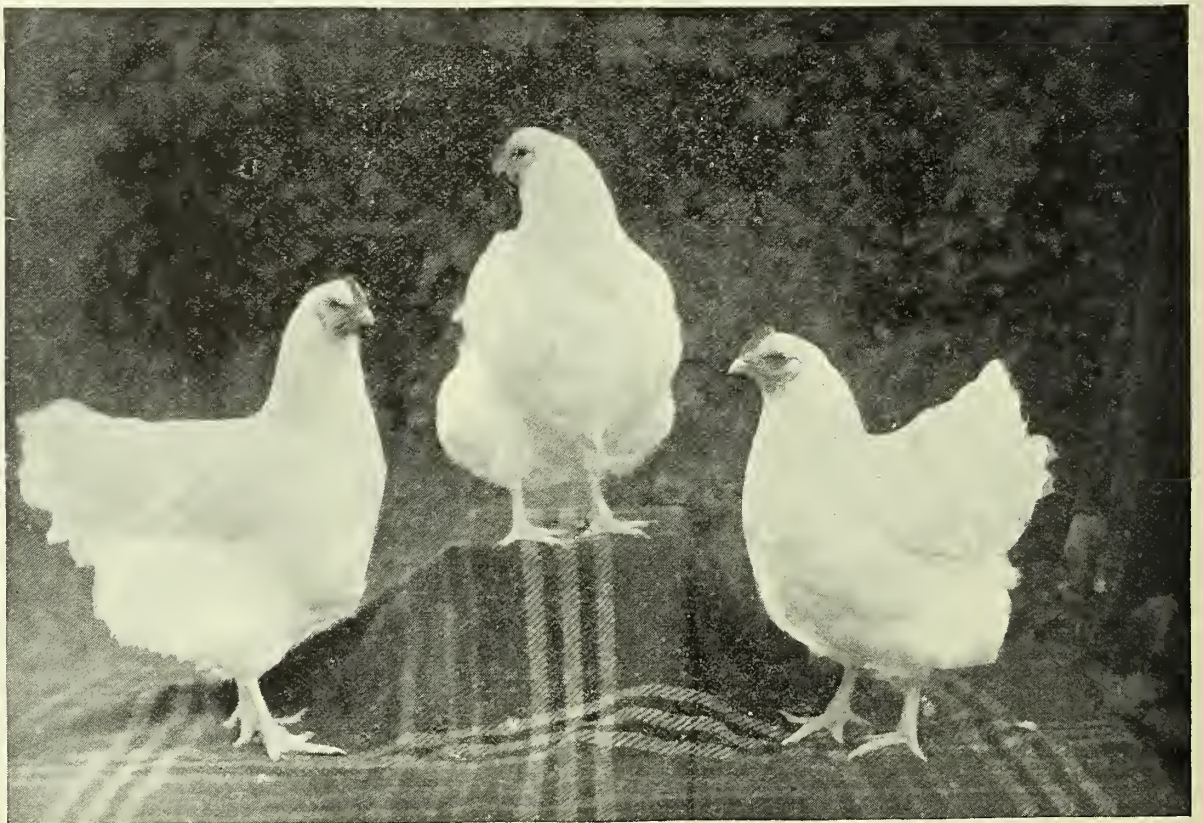
FOURTHLY:—Poultry farming for women. This branch should only be undertaken by those who are in every way suited to the work. They must, first of all, have a wide and varied experience before sinking their own capital. They must be adaptable, active, thoroughly capable, methodical, prepared to work at all hours and in all sorts of weather; and, above all, able to conduct the farm on business lines and to go in for a branch of the industry for which they have special qualifications, and to work it up to a point of perfection. Many poultry ventures fail because of

inexperience and want of application. They must be prepared for small beginnings and possess sufficient capital to encourage the growth of the farm during the first two or three years. In many ways women ought to make more successful poultry farmers than men, as the latter are more apt to overlook detail work, which is oftentimes the road to success.

In conclusion, I should like to remark that at the present time, and in Scotland especially, where the industry is still very much in its infancy, there is a decided impetus, and for the capable woman excellent opportunities to advance the industry.

I should like to see much more done in the production of eggs at the scarce time, and a steadier supply of better class table fowls at all seasons. Even we in Scotland are realising that we must be prepared to pay for a better bird and much enhanced prices have been obtained during the past season.

Let me make a special appeal to the farmers' daughters all over the country to endeavour as far as it is in their power to take a keener interest in their poultry, and to obtain as much information as possible on the subject, and to the parents to encourage the enthusiasm by giving their assistance in providing better housing and in any other way to obtain better results and good remuneration for the work done. In this way they will help to keep their daughters at home instead of going out to seek employment elsewhere.



A Trio of White Orpingtons, the property of Mrs. Trevor Williams.

WOMEN'S WORK FOR THE POULTRY INDUSTRY IN IRELAND.

By M. H. M.

IN no country in the world have women played such an important part in the development of the poultry industry as they have done in Ireland.

Almost the whole of the poultry produce exported is produced on the farms and cottage plots, and the entire management of the fowls is, over the greater part of Ireland, in the hands of women. The one exception to this is the Province of Ulster, where, in some districts, the men take a keen and increasing interest in poultry, regarding them as a highly profitable branch of the farm stock.

The reasons for this condition of affairs are numerous, and are perhaps best summed up in the following extract from a paper read by Mr. J. S. Gordon at The International Conference of Poultry Instructors and Investigators in July, 1912:

"Ireland is a country of small holdings, and recent land legislation has been steadily increasing the number of such holdings by the splitting up of grazing farms, and by the erection of labourers cottages with plots attached. In 1911, out of a total of 607,960 holdings, 353,547 were above one acre and under 30 acres in extent, and, in addition, there were 86,906 holdings of less than one acre. Now small holdings are essentially suited for poultry keeping, because the people occupying such are, as a rule, poor and often short of capital. Poultry keeping (namely, the production of eggs) gives a quick, constant, regular return; it requires a comparatively small outlay of capital, and poultry produce a much larger return for the amount of capital involved than any other class of live stock on the farm—considerations which naturally weigh most with small holders. Besides poultry keeping provides remunerative employment for the wives and daughters of labourers and small farmers. In some districts in Ireland the rent and taxes of the holdings and the cost of groceries to supply the family are annually paid for from the returns of a comparatively small flock of poultry."

In the past the tenant farmers' struggle for existence against high rents, insecurity of tenure, falling prices, and ignorance of the best methods of cultivating the land left him little time to devote to the smaller sources of income, such as poultry. He was, moreover, in many cases unaware of the enhanced demand for and consequently increased prices of these products, so that the poultry remained the care and perquisite of the women. In those days also a widespread dislike for poultry prevailed amongst the men folk, owing to the supposed damage done to crops by fowls, although perhaps it is scarcely fair to say this was peculiar to

Irish farmers. Amongst the many changes which have of recent years taken place in Ireland, there is none more evident to-day than that to be observed in the altered attitude of the average farmer towards poultry.

Over the greater part of the country, however, women are, and will continue, in the main to be the poultry raisers, and their work, often carried on under difficulties, has already achieved surprising results. It may be urged that if this work were in the hands of men it would be better done. Birds could be kept farther afield, so avoiding tainted ground; there would be none of the crowding of birds in the farmyard for convenience of feeding; and in all probability, the breeding and feeding would be better and more systematically done. There is no doubt that poultry are better looked

after where the men take an interest in their management, but in Ireland the greater part of the work will remain in the hands of women, and this is as it should be, for there is no branch of farm work for which they are so well fitted.

There are few of what may be termed poultry farmers in Ireland, but some of the most successful poultry raising establishments are owned and managed by women.

The work of the Irish Department of Agriculture for poultry keeping is well known, but of the most remarkable feature of that work many readers may be unaware. Practically all the teaching that has been, and is being now done, has been carried out by

women. At present there is no man employed at this work. This is so opposed to English methods that an explanation is needed, and it is to be found in the conditions of the country and in the people themselves. No one but women instructors could get into touch with the daily lives of the poultry keepers, who are the women and young girls; men could never help them in the same way.

These instructors combine the teaching of poultry keeping with that of dairy work, and as they are in addition well trained in farm house-keeping, they are able to exert an influence over their pupils, the value of which is often incalculable.

Public testimony has again and again been borne to the personal influence of a good and capable teacher over the pupils. A distinguished clergyman in County Donegal, stated at a meeting of the County Committee of Agriculture, how in a remote village in that county the pupils came to



Miss Murphy.

"M.H.M."

class wearing a good deal of cheap finery and obviously not intending to do much work. They found on arrival a teacher in a short skirt, neat overall, and with her plain print blouse sleeves rolled well over her elbows. The lesson was not lost on the pupils, and in future they came in more business-like attire. Instances like this occur every day, and have their part in the change that is taking part in rural Ireland.

A teacher who has been trained to become an expert worker with her hands, loves to impart this knowledge to her pupils, and a high degree of proficiency in manual work is an essential qualification of these teachers. Hence the excellent influence they have in correcting the distaste for it, which is unfortunately too often the result of our systems of primary and secondary

laying competition is run entirely by women. The first competition of the kind held, began at the Munster Institute, Cork, last October, and the care of the 300 odd birds competing, forms part of the daily routine work of the girl pupils at the school. In a recent issue of "The Illustrated Poultry Record" a photograph appeared showing pupils at work in the runs where the competing birds are located.

For the result of all those labours, the export figures for 1904 (the first year for which such figures are available) may be compared with those for 1911:

	Eggs.	Poultry.	Feathers.	Total.
1904	£2,188,104	£625,870	£36,459	£2,850,433.
1911	£2,940,227	£850,926	£34,921	£3,826,074.



Poultry Students at the Munster Dairy Institute, Cork, where Miss Murphy is in charge.

education. One of the most essential lessons our young girls have to learn, is that they may labour with their hands without losing caste or dignity, and most of the County Instructors are living examples of this fact.

It must not be understood that there is any objection to men as teachers. Physically they are far better qualified for such work, and their knowledge is often greater than that of the present teachers. The drafting of the schemes of instruction, administrative work, inspection and organisation are almost all done by men, but only women could ever become the intimate friends and helpers of our country women in the way so many of the instructors have done.

Ireland has one more unique distinction in the poultry world; it is the only country where a


These figures show that the women of Ireland have not only made good their claim to be successful poultry raisers, but they indicate that if the present progress continues, Ireland will soon be in the front rank for quality and quantity of her poultry produce—truly a remarkable achievement, and one of which the women of any country might feel proud.

Lending and Borrowing Show Birds.

The Canadian Black Minorca Club has expelled from membership its President and Vice-President, the former for lending, the latter for borrowing two Black Minorca male birds which the last-named exhibited at the Guelph Winter Fair last December, where they were awarded 1st and 2nd prizes respectively.

HOW I BUILT UP MY SUCCESSFUL FARM.

By Miss EDWARDS.



SEVENTEEN years ago I found myself facing the difficult problem, "How to make money." My health was indifferent, my capital small. To benefit the former and increase the latter was my earnest desire, and I spent much time and thought with this end in view.

Strangely enough a few words in the Agony Column of a daily paper brought me the solution. A poor governess, whose sight was impaired, advertised for £50 to enable her to start poultry-keeping. I was at once struck with the idea. I reflected that if there was any chance of success under such unfavourable circumstances, a woman with more capital, with business capabilities, and good sight, ought to succeed very well.

I started cautiously, not wishing to invest the whole of my capital in case of failure. I settled upon a cottage with eight acres of ground, about one and a half miles from the railway station. I did all the work myself with the help of a boy on Saturday afternoons.

I would like to say a word about economy. I knew quite well that the first year or two must be a struggle and I was braced for the effort. I threw myself heart and mind into the business. I did not give a thought to relaxation or amusement, unless one can look upon gardening as such. I economised labour by working hard myself; by seeing there was no waste; by wearing out all my old dresses and buying no new ones. Under these conditions my expenses were considerably less than might have been expected, and I soon saw that I was building up a business. Little by little I increased the size of the farm until I rented all the available ground, viz., sixteen acres. My incubator room, which had started in one of the small sitting rooms, had to be transferred to an outbuilding, and still the farm went on growing.

At this period I had to have more help, because showing and exporting began to take up much of my time. Never shall I forget the day when I received the first cheque for £20 for Buff Orpingtons, and that for an export order. To say I felt my fortune made is to express it mildly.

I continued to rent my sixteen acre farm until between four and five years ago. For some time previous to this I had found my position decidedly cramped, and had it not been for a thorough system of "resting" the ground, which I have always observed, it would have been impossible to rear such quantities of healthy chicks in such close quarters.

About this time I had the good fortune to secure a nice farm, with about thirty acres of land, within easy distance of the railway station. A large cider cellar attached to the house was rapidly transformed into a model incubator room; I have now enough

incubators going to take over 3,000 eggs (apart from the hens which are used for hatching in the season), and still the farm goes on growing. Of course I do a great deal in sittings of eggs and newly hatched chicks which are despatched direct from the "drying box," usually in families of twelve, although one order received was for 1,000. The boxes are lined with hay and form a nest similar to that of a wild bird. A piece of flannel is attached with tacks to the four corners of the upper part of the box, resting on the backs of the chicks, keeping them warm and comfortable, and in the event of the box being overturned it prevents them coming in contact with the hard lid.

Next to the "day-old chick" sales, I sell a large number of stock and exhibition birds, and do a large export trade. The most historic of my exports were some Buff Orpingtons sent to Kimberley just before the seige. There was some delay in transit, and the purchaser wrote saying the birds had not reached him. I feared they had been seized by hungry "Tommies," who would certainly have made a very *recherché* meal. However, although delayed, they reached their destination in safety, and I heard afterwards, conducted themselves like good British subjects by laying splendidly right through the trying time. I have exported birds to all parts of the globe since then.

I have made poultry farming pay by sheer hard work, economy, and strict attention to business. By this last item I mean three things. First, Promptitude—never putting off till to-morrow what should be done to-day. Second, Reliability—the knowledge that one is giving the very best value for money. Third, Personal Supervision—to know exactly how everything is done, when it is done, and to take a personal interest in the most minute affairs of the farm.

Frequently the uninitiated think that money is easily made out of poultry, in some magic way, at the cost of very little work, and that little, agreeable work. It is not enough, however, to be fond of fresh air. The methods applying to any other business are of vital necessity in poultry-keeping, and the chief elements to success are a fixed determination to succeed, and an ardour that cannot be cooled by every small wind of ill luck.

I think I may claim to have made a success of poultry farming. I have built up a good business, and to-day I can repeat what I have said every previous year, "The farm is growing, still growing," and I am just a little proud of owning "The Woman's largest Poultry Farm," with six people employed on it and many students at work. This answers the question often asked, "Can poultry pay?" as the business has grown up from a start on half an acre and twenty fowls, and very little capital.

WOMEN OF TO-DAY

And how they fare in the Poultry World.

By MISS CAREY.

IT is perhaps a somewhat strange fact, and one that often causes one to stop and consider, why so few women take any prominent lead in the poultry world as compared with the number of men, taking into consideration the fact that the number of women in the country interested in keeping, feeding, rearing and marketing poultry, whether for killing or stock purposes, must exceed the number of men so employed by nearly fifty to one. Take, for instance, a small country village, such as Toynton, containing about 80 houses. At about 50 of these poultry are probably kept, yet in only about 4 cases do the men of the house take any interest in the birds. Were it not for the interest taken by the women of the country in the poultry industry the markets in our large towns would fare badly for eggs and table produce.

Perhaps if the suffragists carried power enough to influence the vast body of their own sex whom to-day they profess to represent, they could find few ways that would be more generally felt throughout the country than by getting all the women who handle poultry in the country to go on strike and hold up the markets. Has anyone ever stopped a second to consider what a part poultry and eggs play in the great food store of the country. What would be the result for a few weeks if no supplies were forthcoming? Half the cooked food consumed every day contains egg in some form, to render it light and digestible. How largely they are used in some lines of medicine, and in the manufacture of other articles, and yet notwithstanding the fact that throughout the country the population is much more largely dependant on the individual effort of women than of men to supply these needs, the prominent women of to-day in the poultry world are few and far between.

That there is a big opening for the women of England in poultry farming is undoubted, the life too is one far more suited to health than long hours confined in office or shop. The work of rearing, and tending growing life is one to which woman is by nature born, and one in which if she put her mind to she should be able always to take a lead. Why is it then that comparatively few enter into poultry farming as a business, or care for any work connected with poultry outside their own homes?

In the exhibition world the scarcity of women exhibitors and members of the clubs is especially marked. At the Grand International Palace Show there were roughly about 200 lady exhibitors among 13,000 exhibits; in the Poultry Club some 150 lady members among a membership of about 1,200, and in the majority of specialist clubs the lady members are very limited, and only here and there are one or two taking any active lead on committees or councils. The Poultry Club has 41 members in its governing body, 40 men and 1 lady, how few specialist clubs have more than 1 to 3 ladies in the official positions.

The judging lists show a marked scarcity of women, and here it seems almost a real pity women do not devote more time and attention to the subject. Few will deny that where beauty and appearances are concerned women are no novices in

the art of criticism. To a woman every detail of curve, every tint and variation of colour plays a part in life—beauty, refinement, and perfection of detail form her greatest pleasure. She goes through life seeking unconsciously to raise and beautify—is her judgment at to what constitutes a perfect bird of so little account the reason women are seldom selected to judge at big events where the selection will set the fashion of beauty of colour and type for the ensuing years? Would the bird of our poultry world deteriorate under her guidance? Take the new varieties of poultry originated by women of the poultry world during recent years, do they show lack of judgment in what the public can appreciate, or deterioration in colour and beauty from the original breed? White Faverolles,



MISS CAREY.

A Lady Poultry Breeder of International Fame.

Buff Faverolles, Buff Orpington Ducks, and Croad are a few examples, while amongst such breeds as game, Orpingtons, Campines, Yokohamas, Bantams, La Bresse, Malines, Rhode Island Reds, Silkies. We find our judges continuously according the honours to the good taste and judgment of women in the selection of their own exhibits; yet among some hundred or more judges selected to judge the Palace there seem to be only three ladies in the list, of whom two were judging breeds in conjunction with their husbands, and at the Dairy no ladies seem on the lists at all.

On show committees too, ladies do at present very little work worthy of note. On a governing body of some hundred councillors, patrons, vice-presidents, committees and members that organize the great Palace show there are only four ladies, whilst in the official list of the Dairy Show, 1912, not a single ladies' name appears to be mentioned, yet surely here at least in regard to the lay-out and

display of the birds, the comfort, interest, and attraction to visitors ladies might be a great adjunct to such committees. Popular as these big shows are, even among the older breeders one hears complaints of poor staging—of too little thought for the comfort of exhibitors who are forced to be in attendance for many long weary hours every day, too little attention to details that might instruct and arouse a wider interest in poultry culture among visitors who are not at the time interested in poultry breeding; and frequently, especially among a wide range of small shows, no

rooms, lounges, telephones, luncheon and tea rooms, all laid out to draw the uninterested outsider within their walls. Are we, members of the poultry world taking the right course in declining to move ahead with the times? Is it really best to display our birds and ridicule the idea of spending money on making the building attractive, running our shows only on warehouse lines, and yet expecting to attract the wealthy retail customer? Is not the fact that in a heavy percentage of the shows the gate money taken is quite inadequate to meet the expenses, a sufficient



A Scene on a German Poultry Farm where women do the bulk of the work.

thought whatever of the comfort, or catering to the needs or refreshments of lady visitors or exhibitors.

No doubt a few years ago the conditions now prevailing were all that could be desired,—but is that the case to day? Look around the great business world that caters to the needs of the general public, and see the vast change that has taken place in the places where the goods the public buy are displayed. Go into big stores such as Harrods, Selfridges, Peter Robinsons and note how the comfort of the customer is considered on every hand—hundreds—nay thousands of pounds spent merely on attractiveness in display, reading

proof that the public are dissatisfied with our methods? Are we to continue to have the public dissatisfied, to let the shows be financial failures year by year, to let the interest in the exhibitors world gradually decline, or are we going to seriously discuss the problem as to how it would be possible to display our birds in lines that would appeal to the country?

Perhaps the methods of ladies if applied to these show committees might be too drastic, it would be a case of spring cleaning no doubt, and for a time the usual chaos might reign supreme—Rearranged We can picture exhibitors hunting round for their birds amidst the palms and shrubs, wide alleys and

greenery that would break up present dull monotony in many instances, but the thought has some possibilities and if horticultural and agricultural exhibitions would join hands "*under the same roof*" a very different complexion might be put into the result obtained at the present day by exhibitions without extra cost.

From a practical business standpoint there are few in the poultry world who are not agreed that our methods of promoting the exhibiting of poultry by our present system of exhibitions as is not altogether a successful, but it is always the same cry. We dare not run the risks such expense might incur, it is so hard to get subscriptions, and so matters slip on and "from the days of Noah to the present day the birds have been staged in the same old way in the Fancy." But still it seems there should be some way out of the difficulty, if each individual member of the Fancy would take an interest, and here lies a wide scope for women's energy if she cared to expend it, for surely arrangement and display inside a building is usually her strongest point. How often does a woman go into a room where tables and chairs have been arranged in hard, comfortless, straight lines, and by a turn and a twist here and there, and a few trifling additions a look of comfort and attractiveness is immediately imparted.

In how many country houses of England to-day is any care or interest bestowed to the birds kept for the production of eggs and birds for the table? Yet here alone lies a hobby that might fill in many an idle hour, to good account. The handling of nature, harnessing her as it were and forcing her to do your bidding can be a task more difficult of accomplishment, and hence more fascinating than any sport. The production of new and more beautiful or useful breeds and varieties, the perfecting of existing ones, the formation of valuable laying strains that can be relied on to produce the highest number of eggs possible in a year, and to work on towards the increasing of the egg yield to even higher records than at present

known, these form a few of the interests within the home circle and beyond. To fix the standards of our breeds by good judgment when called into the ring, to promote good fellowship and popularity of our clubs by an influence in organisation—to increase the popularity in breeding and exhibiting of poultry especially among the wealthier classes by promoting shows that would cater to their interests are surely desirable ends. To those who handle the pen to remember its power is estimated as greater than the sword; it is a living thing to influence for good or evil, for better or worse the cause that you have in hand.

Is there nothing in this that appeals to the women in England seeking interests in life? In thousands of cases the birds have in any case to be kept to provide poultry and eggs for the house, but are relegated to the care of the servants and consequently frequently an expense only tolerated to ensure new laid eggs. If asked why this is so, the reply is "they don't interest." Viewed however in the light of the above remarks, is there not a deeper interest in handling nature and adapting her to your requirements, of improving, beautifying or creating new breeds, of extending your interests beyond your own immediate circle, in promoting the keeping of poultry, which, in some countries ranks second only to wheat as a food supply to the population, remembering how in an island like England threatened permanently under existing conditions in event of war, by the blockade of our ports how urgent it is that every effort be made to encourage England to supply her own food supplies with home grown produce when possible?

Woman's status in the poultry world to-day may be practically nil as a controlling force—but as a working force it far outweighs that of men. The control, however, lies open to all who are sufficiently interested to step in, and a warm welcome is extended in many circles to woman's efforts to help forward the cause both in the utility or exhibition sections.



A SCOTTISH LADIES' POULTRY FARM.

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO IN WALES.

By MISS BEATRICE CHAMBERS.

THERE may be short cuts to making a fortune, there are none towards making a livelihood. Given perseverance however, and a love of creatures, I believe more women would do well out of utility poultry keeping than they would out of anything else. The gifted poultry-woman is born, then made, and it is the making which we ordinary people have to consider.

As to the making, there are suggestions enough and to spare. Training can be had from colleges, poultry papers, and practical experience, but the love of the birds carries us far in combination with common-sense and a reliable poultry paper.

Women are, as a rule, influenced in their choice of a start by ties of relations and friends, and in nine cases out of ten those advisers have not enough confidence in the beginner. Why should almost every advertisement stipulate for, near London or Eastbourne?

Of course, it is difficult to steer between eccentricity and the common-place. But why, if it is meritorious to pioneer in Canada, is it out of the question to do so in Great Britain? We want hundreds of acres opened up and colonised afresh in our own land.

When the ever-memorable egg train penetrated South Wales it was as veritable a piece of pioneering as has been done on British soil since the Restoration. Now again the work has been taken up, and we await results. Meanwhile, let me say this. The first train led to an awakening of interest hardly credible to those who knew the previous apathy. It strengthened the farmers' co-operative societies. It led to Mrs. Saunders-Davies at once starting an egg and poultry association at Boncarth, to Miss Harries, of Trywyn, and myself undertaking a series of village lectures, resulting in the Granston

and District Egg Association which she conducts so brilliantly.

I was asked to speak on poultry at the Fishguard Farmers' Show, which, in all its seventy successful years, had never heard voice of woman before; at the close the cattle judge from the Midlands rose and corroborated every word. They have now done me the honour to make me a Vice-President. I suggest to women who are not bound to any particular part, to enquire into the reports of Welsh poultry and egg societies as to getting rough land, and old-fashioned cottages near by, where produce can be taken directly off their hands. Better still, come and see. Rents are low, life, living, and wages inexpensive. Market gardening is practically unknown, the apple crop never fulfils the demand. Glorious air, beautiful scenery, and an opportunity



A flock of Mr. S. G. Hanson's White Leghorns on his farm near Basingstoke.

for making themselves of value and standing, desired amid a crowd, await the oncomer. I should suggest as adjuncts, a speciality in snowdrops and winter violets as being compatible with the mild climate and early springs.

I keep White Orpingtons, Faverolles, Leghorns, and Runner ducks; they thrive well, yet never can I still the clamour of Miss Harries for eggs, eggs, and yet more eggs. Summer visitors arrive in their season, and they would consume far more eggs and poultry were there any thought-out methods of supplying them.

I ask, "Who has resolution enough to start afresh in a new, yet still the same dear old, Country?"

POULTRYWOMEN.

By J. W. HURST.

IS it? The question has been raised as to whether it is woman's work to keep fowls and to undertake all the duties involved in the industrial production of eggs and chickens. It is a very modern question. At one time no one suspected that it was a man's work. As a matter of fact man has really invaded the woman's sphere, thus reversing the recent tendency, and having done so he now suggests that poultry-keeping is too much for a woman. But is it?; and if the truth be told who are the really important raisers of table chickens and

There is an ever growing need for widening the opportunities for women, but although they may be as capable as men of managing the work of a large poultry and egg-producing concern it does not follow that they will be able to make a living at it. If it were so they would succeed where the majority of men have failed. This is not to say that there are no opportunities for specialists, but that development must be mainly along the line of production on the farm and small holding, concurrently with the other uses of agricultural land.

Here and there women, as well as men, may do relatively greater things, but when the issue is doubtful in the hands of men it would be



An Irish Poultry Instructress and her class in County Kildare.

market eggs if not the wives and daughters of farmers and cottagers?

The question does not seem to bear serious discussion if we admit, and the facts cannot be gainsaid, that the bulk of home grown supplies is an agricultural output. That being so, can it be seriously contended that the farmers and their labourers are very largely or directly responsible for poultry products? It is obvious that those who question the suitability of the work for women look at the matter from a different standpoint, having in mind women of a different stamp, and a more elaborate scheme of poultry farming. Even so, I do not think there is any inherent reason why a woman should not be as capable of managing the work as a man, given equal conditions and the assistance for which a man provides in the conduct of extensive operations. With the one sex as with the other the result depends mainly upon individual fitness.

unfair to encourage women to embark upon hazardous adventures. The common sense of the matter is to develop and improve the existing output and methods of the countryside, and this is as much—if not more—the work of agricultural women as of men. It is work for countrywomen rather than a panacea for the ills of those who would escape from towns, and it would be nonsense to question the ability of countrywomen to keep fowls.

She may not know it, or be ready to admit the fact, but what the countrywoman needs is instruction. She also needs encouragement, and some co-operation on the part of her men-folk. Where this is given the results are satisfactorily remunerative, and often surprising to the mere male. As an instance, and one of many that could be cited, a farmer who was for many years a near neighbour of mine, allowed his daughter the use of his available land for chicken rearing, accepting the manurial product

as rent for the accommodation. She bought and paid for all food, made or purchased all appliances, hired what labour she required and marketed her produce. Over a series of years, during which I lived in the locality, her net profits averaged £100 per annum, as was proved to my satisfaction from inspection of accounts. There are countless country girls, strong and capable, who are quite as favourably situated if they would only realize—or were allowed to take advantage of—their opportunities. In this case the poultry producing operations were not allowed to interfere with the ordinary work of the farm, and the girl found time to render a fair share of assistance in the dairy. There is nothing very exceptional in such circumstances, unless it be that both father and daughter possessed nous in common.

It must not be thought, however, that a woman can as easily go and earn £100 a year by chicken rearing on her own account. I do not say that it is impossible (so few things really are to some people) but that the conditions are so different as to make it improbable. It is the woman who can combine her work with that of the man that stands to win, and if farmers would give the necessary encouragement more daughters would remain content with country life. It is of course obvious that there are other considerations, but such a result would at least have the effect of making young men less eager to leave the land, and to that extent serve as a factor in keeping country people on it—a much more hopeful ambition than that of getting them back again. It is recorded in a report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture that poultry rearing tended to early marriages in Sussex, as by thrift and industry it was possible to save money quickly. Let us, therefore, scout the idea that poultry keeping is not woman's work, but let us also recognise that there is need for a lot of teaching.

The Irish have learnt a lesson in this connection, and their experience is well worth careful consideration—although the conditions are somewhat dissimilar. There is, however, this about the propagandism of the Irish Department of Agriculture—it has aimed at the conversion of the women, and results are justifying the method. As Mr. Campbell, Assistant Secretary in respect of Agriculture, put it at the Dublin Conference in 1911:—“Poultry keeping did not occupy in the minds of the people of the country that position as a calling to which its importance entitles it. Farmers and their sons did not view the industry as one worthy of their personal attention, nor can they even yet be easily induced to regard it as a serious business. Fortunately, however, the women of the country

put a higher estimate upon it. They quickly realised the need for improvement and development, and rose superior to the scorn often meted out to the idea that poultry-keeping could be made an important source of national wealth.”

I see no reason to suppose that the country-women of Great Britain are less amenable to reason than those of Ireland, and it is, as a matter of fact, from my more extensive knowledge of the women on this side of St. George's Channel that I am led to the conclusion that egg and chicken production *is* woman's work as much as man's. Within the last few weeks I have seen side by side the handiwork of English and Irish women, and have duly admired the skill of both. This was at the Bath and West Show at Truro where in the table poultry classes a lady of Wexford competed with ladies of Somerset and Berks, with results that redounded to the credit of the trio, who divided between them the six prizes in two cross-bred classes.

Anyone who is in the habit of visiting the more important of the agricultural shows, and noting the exhibits in the dead poultry classes will not need to be told that this is by no means an isolated example, and do not the women take the majority of the prizes in the egg classes? These facts are surely significant, and sufficient to establish the claims of the women to equal rights with the men—in the poultry industry at any rate. Other matters are beyond the scope of this article.

LATE-HATCHED CHICKENS.

THOSE who have failed to raise as large a number of chickens as they expected in the early part of the season need not feel discouraged, for there is still time to make up the deficiency by rearing a few broods hatched in July, and they can be reared without difficulty, if carefully tended. The secrets of success with late broods, as discovered by the writer in the course of a long and varied experience in raising chickens of many breeds at all seasons, are disclosed in the following paragraphs:

1. The attendant must take the same interest in the late broods as was taken in the first chicks of the year, and must give them as full a share of attention as was found necessary for raising the early chicks. This is not often done, for the interest in one's work begins to flag when it becomes necessary to repeat the same operations month after month and to continue them into a time which to many seems unseasonable. Failure with late broods may in many cases be attributed to this lack of interest and attention, and unless the poultry-keeper has made up his mind to take a keen interest in his late chicks and to give them

all the care they need he had better leave the eggs unset and send them to the nearest grocer's shop, for he will make more money this way.

2. Eggs for quick-maturing breeds ought to be chosen for late setting, because chickens of the larger breeds, which are slow in developing, will prove unprofitable when late hatched. Leghorns, Minorcas, Wyandottes, or any of the small or medium fowls, will often lay in November or December if hatched now, and may thus prove more profitable than earlier-hatched chickens of the same breeds; but if Dorkings, Brahmas, Langshans, and fowls of this kind have not been hatched by the end of April, it is advisable to refrain from hatching them until autumn or early winter. Hatched at this time, they will come in as large roasters in spring, when prices are always remunerative.

3. It is of primary importance that eggs selected for hatching late in the season should come from fresh stock. By this I mean that failure will generally result from hatching eggs from the stock which have been confined to their breeding-pens since, perhaps, last December, whilst success is attained by making up a pen of stock birds which are "fresh"—birds which have not been yielding eggs steadily for months past. In order to have stock fresh for late breeding it is always advisable to keep two or three male birds reserved, keeping them away from the hens until they are required for the making up of a late pen; and hens or pullets can be taken from amongst those which have hatched and reared early broods, and which have thus been relieved from the strenuous task of egg-laying for a considerable part of spring. A pen made up from such fowls will supply eggs which are far more suitable for late hatching than the eggs from a pen which has been laying continuously for several months.

4. Now that the weather has become warm, very great care is necessary in the collecting of eggs from the nests at frequent intervals throughout the day, and also in the keeping of them if they have to be kept for many days before being incubated. Often at this time we find great broodiness amongst hens, and in a very few hours a broody hen in the laying-boxes will spoil any new-laid eggs she sits upon. Again, we have a higher temperature now than we have had for some time past, and it is inadvisable to store the eggs in a warm pantry or kitchen.

5. Late broods will not live or thrive upon the same ground as has been occupied by the earlier chicks, and herein lies the mistake which is most often made by those attempting to raise late chickens. Let them be provided with a piece of ground which has not been occupied by poultry this year or at least for the past month or two, and let them have clean, freshly-painted coops and other appliances, and there is no more trouble about raising chicks in July than there is in March or April.

LADIES OF NOTE IN THE POULTRY WORLD.

The Marchioness of Salisbury.

No name has stood more prominently forward during recent years in connection with the poultry industry than that of Lady Salisbury, who, as president of the National Poultry Organisation Society since its inception in 1898, has given unreservedly of time and means to the promotion of the work of that Society and, therefore, of poultry-keeping generally. Her ladyship combines high social position with determined but quiet pursuit of any object in view, and it is freely admitted that the present position of poultry-keeping on utility lines is largely owing to her efforts and influence. Those who are associated with Lady Salisbury in committees speak most warmly as to the ability shown in her conduct of meetings and her clearness of view. Lady Salisbury is also president of the Hatfield branch of the N.P.O.S. and was president of Section E at the second National Poultry Conference at Reading in 1907. She is the daughter of the fifth Earl of Arran and in 1887 married Viscount Cranborne, who succeeded to the marquise of Salisbury in 1903.

Her Excellency, The Countess of Aberdeen.

The Countess of Aberdeen has for many years manifested a keen interest in the extension of poultry-breeding, not alone upon her estate at Haddo, Aberdeenshire, where she had a fine poultry establishment, one of the best in the country, but wherever occupying the high position to which Lord Aberdeen has been called in Ireland and Canada. It was during their first Irish Viceroyalty in 1885-6 that the opportunities in that country were realised, and Her Excellency helped greatly in the earlier efforts to improve the stock of poultry kept in that country. Political changes made the period of service very brief, only about six months, but during that time the foundations of developments in many directions were laid. When Lord Aberdeen was made Governor-General of Canada in 1892, another field of operation presented itself, and considerable interest was shown in the poultry section of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, in charge of Mr. A. C. Gilbert, the doyen of Canadian poultry instructors. Since they returned to Dublin in 1906 Lady Aberdeen has given the weight of her great influence to extension of all branches of production. Such a brief summary records but a little of the part taken by Lady Aberdeen in this special subject, and makes no attempt to recognise the manifold scope of her activities in support of movements for the general advancement of every section of the community.

Mrs. A. Trevor-Williams.

In our issue of December, 1909, there appeared an article descriptive of the Clock House Poultry

Farm, Byfleet, of which Mrs. Trevor-Williams is the lessee. The farm, which consists of about four acres of pasture, is part of a general stock-farm of nearly two-hundred acres owned by Mr. Trevor-Williams, and was started about five years ago with the object of producing utility poultry and eggs. Since then, however, the desire to improve



Mrs. TREVOR-WILLIAMS.

her stock has led Mrs. Trevor-Williams to specialise in certain breeds, notably White Wyandottes and White Orpingtons. With these she has had many successes at important shows.

At the same time, she has never neglected the utility side of the business, and recently there have been important developments in this direction. Since our visit, for instance, she has set up a fattening establishment for retail and wholesale marketing—probably the only one of its kind in the district. Mrs. Trevor-Williams is a very keen poultry-keeper, and pays the closest personal attention both to the exhibition and to the production sides.

Miss Carey.

A most successful exhibitor is the lady whose name appears above. The evolutionary process is interesting. Starting about fifteen years ago with only back-yard accommodation, the initial experience was gained with a few birds kept for several years, but successfully so. About 1904 a visit to India necessitated clearing out the entire stock.

Returning eighteen months later, Miss Carey turned again to her old hobby and determined to conduct operations on a larger scale and on business lines, inclusive of exhibiting. Selection was made of Black, White, and Buff Orpingtons from leading yards, and from the first success followed speedily, which has continued to the present, as the records of the past season tell; so much so, in fact, that the sale of birds has rapidly grown. To the stock named above was added Mr. Horbury's stud of Reynolds White Orpingtons, regarded as among the finest known. The yards at Toynton Rectory, Spilsby, now occupy over ten acres, and it is the intention shortly considerably to increase the area.

Whilst Miss Carey has won fame as an exhibitor with the breeds named, these do not absorb her sole attention. The blue ideal has fascinated her, and an attempt is being made to produce a true blue, instead of the dull greys so often seen. Last year a White Faverolle was produced, and also a Buff Faverolle, but the latter, at any rate, has not yet been perfected sufficiently to become recognised among exhibition varieties. The former, however, has much to recommend it. Exhibition points are not everything, in Miss Carey's judgement, nor does she approve of the rage for size to which some judges attach so much importance. She believes that poultry, as other animals, should be judged as to points in conformity with the leading economic quality, and not merely for that which is of lesser value.

Mrs. L. C. Prideaux.

This lady is known for her advocacy of, and success with, the Yokohama fowl. From her establishment at Lindfield, near Haywards Heath, have come many of the best specimens within recent years, and she has worked hard to popularise one of the most beautiful breeds we possess.



Mrs. PRIDEAUX.

The great Yokohama breeder.

SUMMER MANAGEMENT.

By F. W. PARTON (*the University, Leeds*).



WITH the finish of the hatching season the most arduous time of the poultry-keeper's year is over, but it must not be imagined, for one moment, because there is no one particular phase requiring attention more than another, that the owner may rest on his oars, and drift until the autumn sales of stock birds commence. Summer management is important in that every branch, without exception, requires most rigid supervision. Avoidance of overcrowding on the land, and the provision of shade from the sun's rays, breaking up of the breeding pens, finding accommodation for the stock after separation, sweetening of the breeding pens, weeding out, fattening the culls, disposal of old hens, and the care of and feeding the half-grown chickens all come into summer management.

One of the most important items for consideration with the approach of hot weather, is that the ground shall not be overstocked with chickens. This is a most fruitful cause of trouble, and one that may have a devastating effect. The tendency to overcrowd is undoubtedly greater at the present time of year than it is at any other season, since the poultry yard is well stocked with fowls of all ages and sizes. Many of the old hens are not yet disposed of, and their numbers are augmented with the breaking up of the breeding pens, since very often, on its abandonment, the occupants are turned loose among the main flock. Chickens are growing and week by week, they are requiring more space and fresh ground if their growth and condition are to be maintained.

There are few farmers to-day who do not adopt the plan of placing the adult stock in different parts of the land, pasture and arable, rendering service to both stock and land. There are, however, very few who ever think of treating the chickens in a similar manner. They nearly always remain on the same spot where they were first placed. When the growth of the chickens appears to have been arrested, their activity gone, and their general appearance one of dejection, an entire change of position will work wonders in restoring their waning vitality. There is nothing organically wrong; all that is required is fresh surroundings. This benefit may be secured by placing them out in the open. They have now reached a size when they can hold their own against that great enemy of young chickens, crows. There is, however, one very important consideration, when the chickens are scattered about, and that is the necessity of protection from the hot rays of the sun. Shelter is at all times absolutely necessary for growing stock; they require shielding from the cold of early spring, from the keen biting winds of March, and from the usual heavy rainfall of April and May. This is realized to a much greater extent than it is during summer, and perhaps never is shelter more imperative as it is from now onwards. There are many

ways in which the birds are affected by excessive heat, but whatever form it takes, results are equally disastrous; therefore, when it is decided to give the chickens the benefit of a change, the place to which they are to be removed should be in such a position that shelter in one form or another is possible. If the place selected be near bushes or trees, where there is natural shelter, or probably better still, near a good thick hedge-row, or if they are fortunate enough to have the advantage of a copse wood, into which they may wander, then the difficulty is at once solved. These ideal conditions, however, are not always available, so that shelter may have to be erected, and if the owner once grasps the importance of this, its erection should not be a difficulty. There is only one precaution that need be mentioned, and that is to have the shelter sufficiently high. It is frequently made very low, sometimes not more than a foot in height. Certainly this will fulfil the function of breaking the burning rays, but with the result that the heat underneath is almost unbearable.

The breaking up of the breeding pens should be seen to immediately all the eggs have been secured that are intended for hatching purposes, and if the hens have a run on fresh ground, it will prove of great benefit, and assist them through the moult. Those that have completed their term as layers will be all the better for a change for the short period which they have to remain before being killed or otherwise disposed of. A further benefit is secured by the breaking up of the pens, in that the runs have a rest, and are purified before they have again to be used.

In all well managed poultry yards the majority of the wasters have already taken their departure, since culling should be systematically carried on from the commencement. Any, however that still remain, and are large enough, should be penned up, and should undergo preparation for market. They will yield more profit than were they kept until adulthood; and those chickens that are left will have greater scope for development, since more house and run accommodation will be possible.

The early hatched chickens are now rapidly approaching maturity, and they require special attention. The feeding is a big factor towards success: the foods that have been excellent for autumn feeding will not be as suitable during the summer. A varied dietary is at all times beneficial, but never more so than in hot weather. It is well to consider what is required, and the chief object to be gained. Food must be in the direction of building up a big frame for the young stock, while for the old birds a strengthening diet is necessary to repair the waste after a heavy season's work; consequently for both old and young a high percentage of albumenoids is required, and in this direction oats and wheat should form the staple grain, and barley meal and middlings the soft food. Plenty of vegetables and lean meat scraps, or fish meal, should not be omitted from their bill of fare, since this is the best way of making up the albumenoid ratio.

PERSONAL LETTERS FROM AN OLD FANCIER.*

XI.—TO THE CHAIRMAN OF A COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

DEAR Mr. Jay Peabody.—Have you ever heard the story of a Parson who had been appointed Chaplain at the County Jail? When he preached a farewell sermon to his old parishioners they were perturbed by his suggestive text, "I go to prepare a place for you." The responsibility of his approaching position was evidently very great, and he looked upon everyone as possible future recipients of his ministrations. It is there that the appositeness of my illustration lies. Everyone should approach new duties in the same spirit, though probably with greater judgment. I hope it is so in your case. Hence my desire to have a talk with you on a subject in which I am specially interested, and you ought to be. Whether, as one of your constituents, I shall be able to congratulate you upon the position you now occupy, depends upon what you do in it, and the policy you adopt. So far as your predecessor is concerned, the best thing he ever did was to retire. I do not want to say the same in your case. That, however, depends upon yourself. My vote, and everyone I can influence, at the next triennial election, is an uncertain factor, as yet undetermined.

From conversations I have had with you on several occasions it is evident you have not much interest in the Poultry Industry, and have never realised the important place it occupies, or its capacities of extension, in relation to rural economics. My purpose is to enlighten you on that side of things, to show that having accepted your new office class prejudices and personal predictions must go by the board. It is not what you desire or prefer, nor what will best conserve and promote your own interest, that should decide questions, but what will help most the people, even to the humblest cottager. With some few exceptions that has not been the case hitherto, which explains why rural education has been so lamentably in the rear as compared with other countries. The ignorance of some of those to whom has been committed the control of education in this country would be ludicrous if it were not so serious. What we

require to do is to educate County Education Committees and their officials. They need it as much as others—perhaps more.

The fact which has impressed me very often is the absolute lack of balance in the way public money is expended. When proposals are made for education in technical subjects, those which receive the greatest share of attention are such as interest a few, individually it may be of considerable influence, but a moiety as compared with the rest of the community. I have known hundreds of pounds spent in teaching branches of Agriculture which



THE THREE STAGES OF A LATE CHICKEN:—

(1). The Mother.

were suited only in small measure to the County, and yet when it was suggested that Poultry-keeping should be provided for, either that was rejected, or the amounts granted so small as to be practically useless. Even these sums were begrudged. Whenever any cutting-down takes place, as is evident all over the country during recent years, it is generally the Poultry side of the work which is the first to be curtailed, regardless of the fact that in many Counties, where little or no efforts are put forth by the authorities, poultry and egg production

* The previous letters have been:—

- No. I. —"To a Young Judge," March, 1912.
- No. II. —"To a Show Secretary," April, 1912.
- No. III. —"To a Lady Poultry Farmer," May, 1912.
- No. IV. —"To a Disappointed Exhibitor," June, 1912.
- No. V. —"To a Country Poultry Instructor," July, 1912.
- No. VI. —"To a Specialist Poultry Breeder," September, 1912.
- No. VII. —"To a Poultry-phobe Agriculturalist," October, 1912.
- No. VIII. —"To a Show Reporter," November, 1912.
- No. IX. —"To a Master of Foxhounds," December, 1912.
- No. X. —"To a Poultry Co-operator," January, 1913.

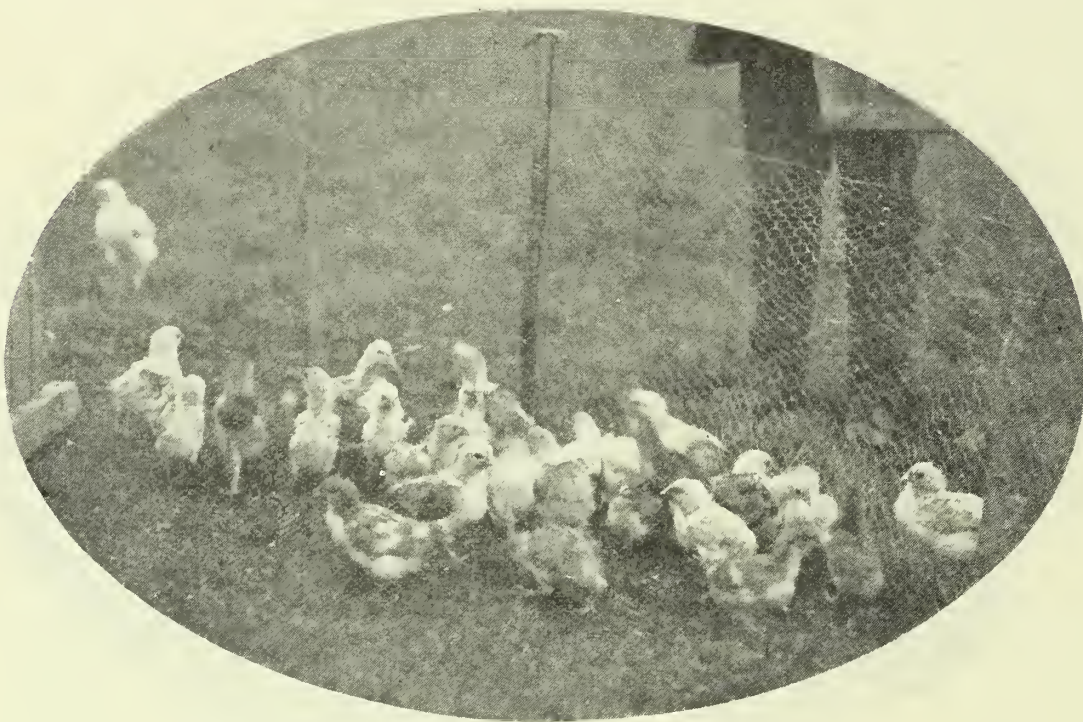
is already of greater value than almost any other branch, with one or two exceptions, whilst the latent possibilities are enormous. The last named seem never to be thought of. Not what is, but what may be, should ever be kept in view.

It is not that we Poultrymen object to encouragement given to any part of Agriculture. Whatever makes for general advance, is to our interest and has our sympathy. All we ask for is fair play. Poultry, save in a few exceptional districts, is, and must be a minor branch of live

It is not, however, only Education Committees that require education. Others of the so-called governing classes need to be taught. One instance will suffice. An influential resident offered her gardens for classes in horticulture. Of course, she would get valuable information and have her trees pruned free of charge. That was a detail, yet one that would amply compensate for any trouble involved. When she learnt that such classes must be open to anyone who liked to enter, whether labourer or his social superior, she indignantly withdrew

her offer, and spoke contemptuously of the "secretary-man" whom she blamed for such a regulation. Her idea was to have public money expended on behalf of herself and a select coterie of her own friends and intimates. That spirit is rampant, and often succeeds in accomplishing its purpose. "Hang all the law and the prophets" is their contention, to use the school-boy's "howler."

Here let me suggest that one of the great mistakes which has been made is



THE THREE STAGES OF A LATE CHICKEN :

(2). Just Hatched.

stock, though essentially an important one, in some counties more than in others. We want that fact burnt in upon the minds of men like yourself. It is what we require, not what you think, which should determine policy. I read the other day a story in a morning paper of what occurred in a Paris restaurant. "Open the window, waiter; I am roasting," said a customer who had just dined. "Shut it up, waiter; I am frozen," protested a man who had just sat down. The waiter was puzzled what to do. The proprietor, however, settled the dispute at once, by saying, "Obey the customer who has not yet dined." And in respect to education Poultry-keepers, actual and possible, are hungry—very hungry. The crumbs which have reached them from the rich man's table are scarcely sufficient to feed a sparrow.

depending upon local clergymen, as such, to organise what may be termed technical classes. I have come across men in that position whose work was beyond all praise, who gave themselves unreservedly to help in the interests of those most concerned. There was nothing perfunctory in what they did. For such no words are good enough. They are, unfortunately, the exception. As a rule the work is either a bore, or undertaken to keep someone else out of it, or because they regard the control of education as their right. Moreover, they look upon questions from above, not below, and frequently have been unable to realise the true needs in this direction of the mass of the people. I have even known in another County an attempt made to prevent the holding of classes in Lent. My advice is, never sanction a parson as the

hub of a local committee if you can get another man as good to act. In any case if he be chosen, let it be from his manhood not the position he holds. If we could get more of the Scottish spirit into English rural life things would be better. In nine cases out of ten the schoolmaster, when he is free, is the better man for work of this kind. At any rate he knows more of what will help the people.

The first thing you ought to undertake, and I do not know more than one county where it has been done, is to learn as far as possible what will best help the farmers and others in their daily task. You will discover that the poultry industry bulks more largely than had been imagined. It is not your business to awaken interest in any pursuit. That may be left to others. Yet it is necessary to discern the trend of things, to even anticipate developments. Make a trial of this plan. Invite farmers and their wives, large and small, and labourers, in any district to meet, without presence of landowner, fox hunter, aspirant County Councillor or J.P., parson or any dominant personage. Allow them to talk freely and fully. The result will probably be a revelation. May be you will come up against snags that are political as well as social. But the main result will be great. Do not talk yourself, or let your officials do this—give the others a chance. That is the way to arrive at the heart of things. There has been far too much talking down to the people. Hear what they have to say. It may not always be flattering to your self-esteem, but that is a detail. The truth will be arrived at. Upon the information thus gathered you should be able to formulate a policy which will help to revolutionise rural life, and give play to pursuits which have never yet had a fair chance.

In relation to Poultry development and education, I have often thought that an enquiry as to how many fox hunters and game preservers occupy seats on County Education Committees would explain much. You know my views on these questions. The unfortunate thing is that the men who regard Poultry with aversion, lest it should interfere with their pleasures, are often all powerful upon the bodies to whom is committed the responsibility of local development and education. Nor have they the grace to withdraw when subjects in which their interests conflict with public duty are considered. They are all the time fighting against the best interests of the country. What the law does not allow they accomplish by social and personal pleasure. In Blackstone's commentaries, referring to wild creatures, it is stated: "All these things, so long as they remain in possession, every man has a right to enjoy without disturbance; but if once they

escape from his custody, or he voluntarily abandons the use of them, they return to the common stock, and any man else has an equal right to seize and enjoy them." Were that recognised, the face of things would be entirely changed. Meanwhile you should purge your committee of men whose interests are anti-educational. The under-dog has to have his chance.

Let me here ask you a question, the answer to which, if you do not already know it, should be obtained from the officials without delay, namely, "What is the county authority doing for education in or promotion of the poultry industry?" I can provide a reply. "Nothing."



THE THREE STAGES OF A LATE CHICKEN:

(3). Last—Cramming.

In past years a few lectures were given by a part time instructor, one of those chameleon teachers who would talk on anything if you gave him time to read up the subject. Can you wonder that the classes were a failure? The fact was he had nothing to teach, and his audiences knew that fact very speedily. Poor fellow, he had to make a living. The real culprits were those who engaged him, whose only excuse was ignorance, crass ignorance. Since that time the subject has been taboo. I do not know what the present production of eggs and poultry in the county amounts to, but it is considerable, and the consumption in value four or five times as great. Money expended in

poultry teaching, if of a practical nature, could not fail to improve the methods adopted, and even if not another hen was kept would yield abundant returns. To this end the first thing you have to do is to get soundly converted yourself, using a Salvation Army expression and a good one, for my dictionary renders it, "change from one state to another," then to make your committee move on or get out, and, finally, insist that your officials shall do their duty. It is no easy task, and the first as hard as any.

Whilst there are a number of excellent poultry instructors, some are otherwise. Unfortunately the latter seem to be chosen by not a few county committees. Either they think anybody can teach this subject, or the fees they offer are so low that good instructors cannot live. I could tell many interesting tales on that side. What you want to do is to secure the best teacher you can and pay a decent salary. Then you will be well served in ten cases out of a dozen. If not, fire him or her at once. I know more about it than you think. In one county two agricultural lecturers have been engaged for years, each at double the salary of the single poultry instructor. Yet he has had more classes and larger classes, and influences the farmers to a greater extent than the two of them. Nor is that an isolated instance. Is it fair? If results determined the salary his would be equal to both theirs.

What you must have is a whole time man, not one who is engaged now and again, a practical, energetic and tactful teacher, able to impart his own knowledge, which should be the result of experience. It is not volubility that is wanted, for that often means hiding ignorance in a torrent of words. Farmers want facts concisely put, and which can be proved. That reminds me of a bishop who, commencing a speech in the House of Lords, said he would divide it into twelve heads. The then Lord Durham begged leave to tell the house an anecdote. He was returning home, he said, a few nights' before, and passed St. Paul's Cathedral just before midnight. As he did so there was a drunken man trying to see the time. Just then the clock began to strike the hour and slowly tolled out twelve. The man, listened, looked hard at the clock, and said: "Hang you, why couldn't you have said all that at once." The bishop took the hint. Life is too short for wind bags even on committees. It is your business to find the right man. Too often even the best committees are unduly prone to think of statistics for annual reports. If I were responsible, having secured the best poultry teacher available, I would let him spend the first three months of his engagement going

from vilage to village, mastering the local conditions, getting into touch with all classes of people, before he gave a single address or held a class. Such a plan might not make for a fine story in reports but would conduce to a real advancement.

Here let me warn you against the man who pretends to know all about poultry and poultry keeping. I was talking the other day with a well-known expert who has been studying the question for a generation and more. He told me that the advances made during the last ten years have been marvellous, and hardly a week passes that he does not learn something. What you must seek for is a man who knows thoroughly what he does know, that what he knows is helpful to the people he has to teach, and is ready and eager all the time to add to his knowledge and experience, or to put it in the language of old Gordon Graham, "it isn't so much knowing a whole lot, as knowing a little and how to use it that counts." Some fellows forget that "it's easier to look wise than to talk wisdom." Such you do not want.

Just one thing more I must say to you. How much of that Board of Agriculture money are you going to secure for the county in aid of a practical teaching school of agriculture, where farmers and labourers can send their lads and lasses to be trained, without fear of their coming home with swelled heads and stuck-up noses? That will be one of the real tests of your administration. Never mind the big colleges and universities at present. They may help to educate professors and teachers, but are of little use for the practical man, who ought to be your first care. And, further, see to it that the hens are adequately provided for, and that the teaching of immediate, useful subjects like poultry-keeping, are given their proper place, both in respect to the farm and its staff. Work it out, my friend, and see that of every hundred pounds expended the fowls have a share in due proportion to their position, present and future, of the returns on an ordinary farm. One man told me the other day, and he has not developed unduly his stock of poultry, that out of every £100 of produce sold off the farm, about £18 was earned by the fowls. That is by no means an extreme case. Many do much more.

I want you to be just. If you are, then it will be well; if not, you must take the consequences whatever they are.

Yours critically,

ENOS MALPAS.

P.S.—Do not be angry at what I have said. "Remember," quoting again old Graham "that when you're in the right you can afford to keep your temper, and that when you're in the wrong you can't afford to lose it."

FANCIERS AND FANCY MATTERS.

BY WILLIAM W. BROOMHEAD.

The Classification of Langshans.

At the recent Darwen, (Lancashire) Show, which, by the way, ranks among the very best of the one-day events in the North of England, I see that two of the classes provided for poultry were for Modern Langshans. I believe this is the first time that such a classification has been offered at any exhibition outside one or two of the classic fixtures of the autumn and winter session; and it is, in my opinion, one to be most highly commended. For long enough now, two distinct types of the Langshan fowl have been recognised in Fancy circles; and it will certainly be to the advancement of both breeds—since different breeds they may be considered, as bred to the present standards—if those who are responsible for the poultry sections at the shows come into line with the Darwen executive and provide proper classification.

The result of the Lancashire fixture was seven entries of Modern Langshan cocks and eight hens, a dozen Croad Langshan cocks and six hens. The last-named class was, perhaps, not a very satisfactory display in view of the fact that a specialist judge was engaged for the Croads only. Nevertheless, if it became known that shows would cater separately for both types of Langshan, I feel sure that substantial entries would be the outcome. When the classes are merely headed Langshans, and without any definition, it often means that a few of each kind, and, perhaps, one or two which are neither Modern nor Croad, are entered. In such circumstances the public find it difficult to know what a Langshan should be, and especially when it happens, as it has done on more than one occasion, that birds of both types are among the prize-winners.

By the way, the original club for the breed still

adheres to its first title, viz., "The Langshan Society." It could, however, well be changed to "The Modern Langshan Club," and, too, cater for all varieties of the Langshan fowl of the long-legged stamp. And in view of the fact that length of body and legs is an important point, a revision of the society's standard would not be amiss. However much some of the older fanciers of the breed deplore the "reach" of the present-day Modern Langshan, there is no question that ninety-nine out of every hundred judges and fanciers show a decided preference for tall Langshans, almost as reachy as the Modern Game.



A Breeding Pen of Buff Orpingtons, the property of Major Mansfield, Ipswich.

Variety Orpingtons—a warning.

In a recent issue of a contemporary it is stated by a well-known fancier of Orpingtons that the Spangled has had its day and is practically finished, and that the Jubilee is on a slow but sure down grade, but the Cuckoo, although it has never had a boom, and no one has tried to boom it, is slowly, but surely going ahead, while the Blue has advanced in such a satisfactory manner that it does not need any advertisement. Being the opinion of one who is financially interested in the two latter varieties, there may be some fanciers who will take his statements *cum grano salis*. Nevertheless, while

not agreeing with Mr. Art. C. Gilbert—from whose letter the above items are quoted—that the Spangled is done for, I must admit that it and the Jubilee are in a sad plight. As I remarked in my review of “The Poultry Fancy in 1912”—which appeared in the January issue of “THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD,”—Jubilees were very disappointing last year, while nothing startling had been shown in the Spangled, “so unless something is done for these two varieties in the near future they will die out.” Hence, now that another authority has had something to say perhaps the powers that be will get a move on.

If the Spangled Orpington has gone out, it does not reflect to the credit of the Spangled Orpington Club; and the same may be said of the Jubilee, with its club. Presumably both of these clubs are still in the land of the living, though little indeed has been heard of either of them during the past season or two. In view of the above facts is it not about time they did something to justify their existence? What is their record? Perhaps the Hon. Secretaries will oblige. I cannot trace that they have rendered much, if any service, to the varieties they represent; and I should like to know that I am wrong in stating that they have not advanced the Spangled or the Jubilee one iota since they cut adrift from the Variety Orpington Club and began on their own. A general meeting, a committee meeting, and a club show crowded into one day, and apparently the only meetings of their kind in the course of a year, are certainly not sufficient to keep the variety in the public eye.

Mr. Gilbert is silent on the decline of the Spangled, but says that the Jubilee is not a favourite on account of the size of its eggs. From the utility point of view I have found that the Spangled is by far the better layer, while the Jubilee beats it hollow for the production of table fowls, chickens which mature quickly and put on a good amount of flesh. As fancy fowls neither variety is an easy one to breed to standard requirements, and the Jubilee is the more difficult. In fact, my opinion is that they have failed to be very popular simply because the selecting and mating of birds to produce winners have not been very carefully studied. Of the other varieties Mr. Gilbert says that he intends throwing up Buff Orpingtons to make room for double the amount of Cuckoos, while he expects that nearly every pen on his place at the end of this year will have Blue Orpingtons in. Of course, both Blues and Cuckoos *can* be bred from the same pen! However, I hope that both of us are wrong with regard to the Spangled and the Jubilee, since surely, with a little effort on the part of the specialist clubs concerned, these two useful varieties can be revived.

Some Shows.

We get ahead these days. In the exhibition world the summer season generally opens in May, and

during Whit-week some of the best shows are held. At Harpenden, on Whit-Monday, the entries were uniformly good, almost every class being well-filled, while the quality of the birds in many cases reached a high level. At Stretford (Manchester) the same day, although exhibits were restricted to a £5 limit, there were quite a few which would have fetched a much higher figure had they been put up to auction, and notably the Black Rosecomb bantam cock which secured the gold medal for the best bird in the show, and the Malay hen which was awarded the special for the best of the opposite sex. At Great Harwood (Lancs.) the following day entries came up splendidly, while the quality was of the very best. Most of the noted northern exhibitors were present with strong teams, and competition was very keen in some classes, the cup for the best bird in the show going to a Barred Plymouth Rock hen. On the Wednesday, at Southport (Lancs.) there was an increased entry of poultry, and again the visitors included most fanciers of renown, who, need it be added, attended with teams. Here the specials were won by an Indian Game cock and a White Orpington hen, while the chicken special went to a Black Wyandotte cockerel. The Somerset County Show opened at Taunton the same day, and the entry of poultry was a good one, averaging close on ten a class, while the quality was of the best.

Edgworth (near Bolton) Show is a very popular Lancashire event, and this year's proved no exception to the rule. It was not favoured with very good weather, but there was a nice entry of first class birds, and many of the recent big winners were staged. A Black Orpington hen won the special for the best heavy breed, and a Pile Modern Game Bantam hen that for the best light breed. The Devon County Show, which opened at Barnstaple on the same day (May 21st) had a good entry, and many of the Taunton winners were present, while two or three of “the northern boys” made the journey with teams and brought back a few of the prizes. Darwen (Lancs.) Show, towards the end of the month, again proved a great attraction. There was a really splendid entry all round, which indicates once more that the show is among the best in the North of England. Most of the regular show-goers were present with their birds, hence the competition was keen. The challenge cup for the best fowl went to a Barred Plymouth Rock cock, while that for bantams was secured by a Black-red Modern Game cock. The “Bath and West,” at Truro, which opened on May 27th, was not favoured with a strong entry this year, but quality was not lacking; there the special winners were a Cochin cock (two cups and a gold medal), a White Plymouth Rock cock, a Buff Orpington pullet, a Silver Wyandotte pullet (two specials and a cup), and a Langshan cock. Among the best of the Scottish events was Colinsburgh, Fife (May 22nd), while of the Irish shows the Royal Ulster, at Belfast, on May 28th, 29th, and 30th, was easily first,

Poultry Club Matters.

I see that the Poultry Club Council has decided to invest the money received for the "Wallis Memorial," and with the interest each year to purchase two specials to be won outright, not a cup, as I mentioned in last month's notes. The specials will be one for open competition and one confined to novices. In addition it is announced that the Council will see that a trophy is also provided, similar to the "Marx Trophy." This latter, it may be remarked, is a 10 guinea memorial cup, and is confined for competition among French breeds. Are members of the Poultry Club to understand from the Council's announcement that the "Wallis Trophy" will be limited to Langshans? If so, will it be limited to Blacks only, or open to Whites and Blues as well? And will the trophy be for competition at the International Show only? These are matters that the Council might explain.

I am very glad to know that the idea of holding a Poultry Club Show has been "knocked on the head." I have ever been strongly opposed to such a venture, not only because the two shows which the club has conducted during the thirty odd years it has been in existence have been miserable failures, but because there is no room and no need for it. There are already far too many shows in this country, and if half of them were dropped it would lead to much better entries all round. The mission of the Poultry Club, however, is not to run a show, but rather to see that exhibitions which are held are conducted on straight lines. The club will have its hands quite full if it looks to such matters as this, and leaves the working of shows to others. The fact that a very small number of replies was received in connection with the circular letter sent out to members, was proof that the show was not wanted.

I hear that the sub-committee—or sub-council?—appointed to consider the proposed show "further reported that they considered that something should be done at existing shows for those members of the Poultry Club who were not fortunate enough to win the various breed cups and other specials now offered." It submitted a scheme for the consideration of the Council, but as several members wished to submit other schemes the matter was put back for discussion at the next meeting. Just what the scheme is, or the others are likely to be will probably not be divulged to the ordinary members of the P.C. But in view of the above wording may I suggest to the Council that it adopts an "all-prizes-and-no-blanks" scheme? Get it on the lines of a penny showman. Let there be as many prizes as there are entries in the class, and let the lowest special be entry fee plus carriage of bird to and from the show, with railway fares for those unfortunate exhibitors who attend, and a sum of half-a-crown to help towards the expenses of drowning their sorrow at not having gained a prize.

Black Leghorns.

It is said, and true it may be, that there are more



A Typical Brown Leghorn Head.

ways than one of skinning a cat. I have never contemplated such a—I almost wrote catastrophe—so I cannot speak as an authority on the subject. There is, however, more than one way of booming a breed; and that I do know. Novelty appeals to some, not to all. The manner in which the rose-combed Black Leghorn has been boomed of late has been novel, but it has not appealed to all. This sub-variety, so it appears, was brought out by the anti-dubbers. Strange, yet true. As most people are doubtless aware the single-combed Black Leghorn is a great layer; but according to certain parties its one and only drawback is that to keep the fowls strong and healthy throughout the winter their combs must be removed. Consequently someone very conveniently brought out the rose-combed Black Leghorn which, apparently, can live in the Arctic regions and never get an attack of frost bite.

That the sub-variety is likely to prove quite a good fowl for exhibition and utility I have no doubt; but the idea of booming it at the expense of its single-combed brothers and sisters is not one that appeals to me. Somehow or other I have a notion that the rose-combed Black Leghorn came into being when there was such a craze for Black

Wyandottes, and that it is more closely related to the American than to the Italian breed. Still, I may be mistaken. There is, nevertheless, plenty of room for it, and there is no need to shove any other kind off the earth to give it breathing space. The Fancy is crowded with breeds, new and old; but there is always a place on top for the best. If the rose-combed Black Leghorn is that, it will get there.

Breeding for Colour.

Just as there are eggs *and* eggs, there are fanciers *and* fanciers. Some of the latter are fanciers in the full meaning of the term, while others term themselves so because they exhibit. The true fancier understands breeding in all its fine points; and truly it may be said that such as he is born and not made. All who exhibit poultry with success are not of necessity expert at selecting and mating the stock birds; and perhaps well it is that it is so, otherwise big prices for fancy birds might be unknown. It is generally considered by the novice that to breed fowls of the self-coloured varieties is next to the easiest thing on earth. It is—in theory, not in practice. One of the most difficult colours to mate is the red, no matter where it be in Rhode Islands, Sussex, or Orpingtons.

Writing to a contemporary lately a fancier is much exercised in the breeding of Rhode Island Reds. One pen, the better, consists of a first-prize winning cockerel and choice pullets, these latter from a well-known breeder's best eggs. There is no smut in the under-colour of these birds, all of them having rich and brilliant outer plumage, and free from white or shafting. And yet, the chickens from this mating will, it is feared, be almost of too light a colour for the show pen. The second lot is headed by a bird which is not nearly the equal of the other cockerel; and he is running with second-year hens which are inferior in colour and type to the pullets. There *is* smut in these birds and yet the pen is yielding the more promising chickens. This is where the puzzling part comes in, since the Red men have banned smut in the show pen, and most of them in the breeding pen also. Therein lies their little error.

Those who are so set against any trace of smut in the under-colour—it does look bad on the surface, and is rightly excluded there—will breed out any black in flights and tail. They may get a self red; but to breed from such birds will eventually result in the production of Rhode Island Buffs! This has actually been accomplished, and on more than one occasion I have passed so-called Reds because they were buff. The ideal show standard of the specialist club is a fine thing in its way; but its way is not the breeding pen. It is a point that applies not only to red, but to most of the other colours, either primary or secondary. Mating for colour is the finest art of all; and not every fancier can apply himself to it.

Penning at the Palace.

That round Robin to the secretaries of specialist poultry clubs and to prominent exhibitors, which someone has started about the manner in which the poultry are staged at the Crystal Palace Show, has given the powers that be furiously to think. Boiled down the complaint is that birds should not be penned so high as to make it impossible for anyone to see them. At a show like the Grand International, "which is run for the Fancy, this should be the case; and we feel that the time has now come when all poultry should be staged on the bottom tier throughout the building ... with the pigeons on top. ... Our contention is that if birds were staged as we suggest the poultry would be seen to the best advantage, while the pigeons would not in the least suffer. ..." In fact, "... it would even be better to divide the show and have the poultry and pigeons in different weeks."

How the letter has fared as regards signatures it is too early to say; but it will not be surprising to find quite a lot of them. And that is what they call gratitude! It is enough to make Messrs. Harrower and Threlford weep bitter tears. They have my sympathies. Here they have been working like Trojans these past few years, giving up valuable time, if nothing else, for the good of the cause, to be told that they are not doing the right thing by their supporters. The sooner that "for the Fancy" bogey is put under six feet of good solid earth—with apologies to my Red friend Mr. George Scott—the better. That wheeze has been overworked of late and deserves a well-earned rest.

When the Fancy helps the Fancy for the Fancy it makes a sad hash of things. I have lived long enough to see more than one such exhibition "stop short, never to go again." The greatest show on earth—for such is the International in its own line—would be a thing of the past in a very short time if it were run on those lines. I am not out throwing flowers about; but if there is any show conducted on an up-to-date business system, and with the prospect of having a hold over for the next, that show is the Palace of the present. There is no combination in or out of the Fancy that could handle such a gigantic affair in a better manner. Messrs. Harrower and Threlford and their committee—and a small one, too—are giving the Fancy the best possible, and if they start cutting off this, that, or the other section to please one then farewell to the Palace. I have judged some breed or other at most of the Internationals, and where I have had birds penned on the top row I have been able to see and handle them with ease.

American Poultry Associations.

Mr. E. B. Thompson, of Amenia, N.Y., a well-known breeder, has been elected President, and Atlantic City, N.T., selected as the place for Annual Meeting of the Association, the time to be in the second week of August. The voting respecting a permanent home was 1,046 against, and 878 for.

THE SEVEN PHASES OF THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

By WILFRID H. G. EWART.

VI.—THE FATTENING BUSINESS.

IN our review of the poultry industry we now come to the least understood aspect of it. While the larger figures of egg importation are quoted, it is often forgotten that nearly a million pounds worth of dead fowls is annually brought into this country. How wrong, how ineffectual—obviously there is somewhere a serious hitch. Our countryside well dotted with farms if insufficiently populated with labourers should be capable of producing many times more dead poultry than consumption demands. The consuming class in this case is after all

a small one. It consists of the "gentry," the hotels, and the restaurants, not the mass of the populace at all. It were a laudable ambition whether instigated by newspaper or government to stimulate this by cheapening production of table fowls so that the "common herd" might seek solace from "everlasting beef, mutton, and pork." And whither should we turn—to the small-holder? Yes, but yet awhile he is not sufficiently numerous in the land to make much difference. To the cottager? No, because he is not a specialist, but mainly a producer for his own requirements. To the farmer? Yes, in

a larger measure than either of the preceding. In the ordinary way, probably each farm rears anything from fifty to a hundred cockerels per annum many of which are very poor. But all, irrespective of type or condition are polished off when they get to killing condition and disposed of either in the local market or to the local butcher—alive. Most farmers cannot trouble to kill, pluck and dress, let alone fatten. Possibly it is not realised what a poor standard of table fowls we obtain, and how difficult it is to reach a better standard at anything like a reasonable price. We put up with our three-shilling chickens dry and unsatisfactory as they are uncomplainingly, knowing no better. I am not one who believes that the ordinary consumer cares

twopence-halfpenny whether the flesh of the bird he eats has a yellow tinge or whether its legs are white. As with most other things, it is a matter of price coupled with quantity. Usually the one is big and the other small. And that is the trouble.

THE SUSSEX INDUSTRY.

In any consideration of the fattening industry one naturally, of course, turns to the Sussex phase of the business and wonders whether and why a thing like this which provides thousands of people with



Outside Fattening Cages.

For the first ten days to a fortnight the birds are kept in outside cages, after which they are placed within a shed.

a living could not be extended. In the accompanying photographs an excellent idea is given of the various processes through which the fatted chicken passes. Brought in the higgler's cart, a rough product of the farmyard and hedgerow, it is first disinfected, then placed with many others in the long coops shown. Here it remains three weeks when, a plump and fully fattened chicken, it is killed, shaped, plucked and tied-up, and finally despatched to the metropolitan market. Such briefly is the history of the Sussex chicken. In Sussex of course the conditions are exceptional. Gradually poultry fattening has taken its place definitely as an industry of local importance, and farmers and cottagers have suited their own

methods accordingly. Many of the successful fatteners are themselves big farmers, producing practically all the food themselves, utilising all the manure and breeding a certain number of birds or supplying a certain number of eggs for hatching from their own stock. To such there is no difficulty about obtaining sufficient material. Others conduct operations on a smaller scale, having only a cottage and garden with enough pasture to keep a horse and perhaps a cow or two. These come under the category of "small-holder" and it is from such a beginning that the larger concerns spring.

LOCALITY.

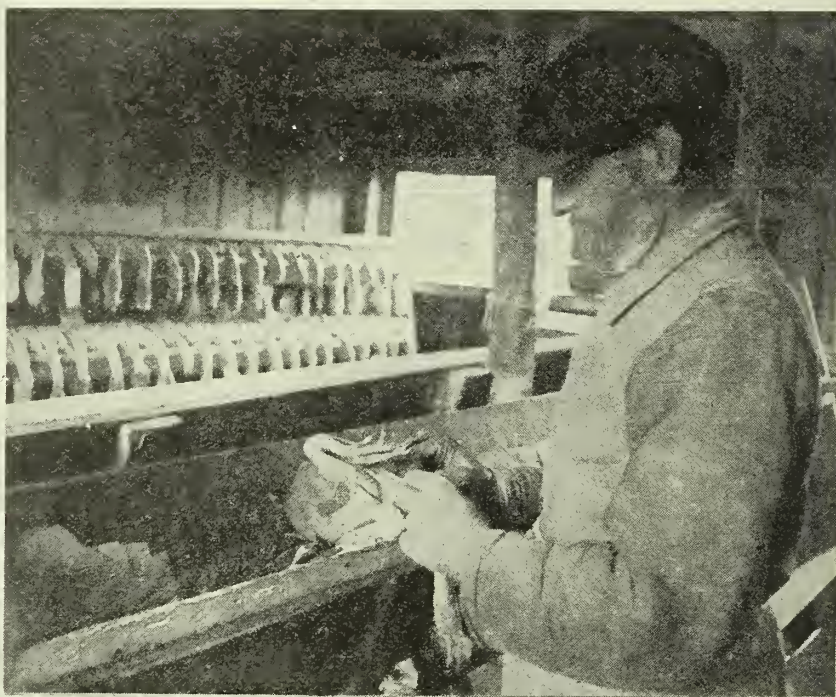
The Sussex fatterer is usually born to his trade; he is a rough-and-ready sort of man and he does not conduct his business on commercial principles. Such would not be the case if the industry were extended and rejuvenated. For what would be the requirements of a successful fattening-plant run, unless most of them, on up-to-date lines? First a neighbourhood must be chosen in cheap proximity to a profitable market. Heathfield and Uckfield are midway between the Metropolis and the seaside resorts of Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, etc. By reason of the definite development of the fattening industry, trade facilities have naturally sprung up in this particular district, for the railway companies deal in bulk. It is one of the difficulties confronting the new man in a new district that he is a solitary unit and therefore enjoys none of the benefits of combination and co-operation. Unless he goes to a district whether in Sussex or in Lincolnshire or in Essex where a number of people are professionally engaged upon his business, he is unquestionably handicapped.

Then again, when he has definitely established a market connexion, there is the difficulty of supply. This is apt to be considerable if a hundred chickens or more are to be marketed weekly. That indeed is where many big schemes have broken down. Few fatteners upon a large scale can afford to draw entirely on local sources, but they must tap the Irish trade. It becomes just a question whether the lean hillside chicken repays the cost of transport across the Irish Sea. The supply must be regular and it must be suitable as to type. Birds for instance of the Leghorn type are of little use, for under no circumstances will they fatten satisfactorily. Then again, there is the question of an all-the-year-round output. Even during the height of the game season there is a certain demand for the best grade of chicken and capon which the profes-

sional fatterer will find profit in satisfying, or he may be bound by a contract. In any case he must largely cater for the profitable February trade in regard to which he could place no sort of reliance on extraneous supplies. The farmer and cottager have no suitable raw material for him in December or January. He must therefore have his incubators at work in November and his breeders in lay during the preceding month. Even ordinary farmers have found this profitable.

THE PETIT POUSSIN.

There are other aspects of the fattening industry with which we have not dealt. There are possibilities in the petit poussin line so little developed in this country. It cannot be suggested that the



Shaping Fowls immediately after plucking.

milk-fed poulet killed at eight weeks is going to meet with a universal demand; but it is a great delicacy of which every gourmet remarks sententiously that "you cannot get it outside Paris." To a certain class of person and that the richest class, it makes a strong appeal, especially at the close of the game season. Something new is wanted—something appetising and fresh—and if the right direction is looked to there will be found no lack of demand for petits poussins. That leads to the undoubted possibilities of the private trade with its better prices and saving of middle profits. There are, we know, difficulties of transit, not to speak of those involved in the small consignment; but despite them the direct mode of disposal has been so inefficiently attempted hitherto or attempted upon such unambitious lines that its commercial

opportunities have never been gauged. The "hamper" line of business is a distinctly hopeful one for the chicken fatterer if he is prepared to despatch couples of birds of high quality and properly packed, with clockwork regularity. One of the difficulties from the consumer's standpoint lies in the fact that the ordinary countryman seems incapable of business-like precision.

WATERFOWLS AND TURKEYS.

Little space is left me now in which to deal with the other and formidable phases of poultry-fattening, namely, ducks, turkeys, and geese. The duckling industry of the Aylesbury district extending roughly from February to July is very well known and so are the methods of production. The eggs having been obtained early, the ducklings are of course allowed to run the usual course for the first five weeks save for being denied access to water, and they are then penned and fattened. The feeding consisting of such stuff as boiled rice and tallow-greaves is not of an expensive character, numbers of birds are fattened within a remarkably small area and yet they are ripe for killing at eight or nine weeks, when each specimen weighs as

much as 5 lbs. Most of the Aylesbury fatters are quite small men with at most a paddock behind their cottages. The East Anglian duckers, on the contrary, do things on an intensive scale but theirs rather inclines towards the autumn trade when the birds are marketed at six months or thereabouts. Eggs for hatching are also produced in large quantities. Of turkeys it need only be said that the Christmas trade has attained enormous proportions, and that profits on well-managed establishments in favourable districts are very large though in fact the process of fattening is essentially natural. The birds lay the necessary foundation first on the hay-fields and in the farmyard, latterly on the rich corn-stubble after harvest. About the only artificial feeding they get is in the last month before killing. It is the same with geese. During summer and autumn they will thrive admirably with no extra feeding whatsoever until the month before killing. At no time does fattening amount to more than liberal hand-feeding, and it is here that much money is saved. In the case of a large farmer there would seem to be no reason why all the foregoing branches of the fattening business should not be carried on coincidentally.

NEW ZEALAND POULTRY CONFERENCE.

THE third annual Conference of the New Zealand Poultry Association, held in the Trades' Hall, Auckland, on March 25th, 26th, and 27th, was a great success, the attendance being from 150 to 200.

At the opening session Mr. T. Brittain-Bull, of Auckland, was elected President; Mr. J. B. Merritt, of Christchurch, Secretary-Treasurer; and Mr. F. Brown as adviser to the Association.

The Secretary (Mr. J. B. Merrett) read the annual report. This showed that although the trend of commercial life at the present time is towards combination of industrial effort, yet the poultry-raising industry in the Dominion was the largest industry in an unorganised state. Although prevented of late from doing much aggressive work from lack of funds, the efforts of the present conference should do much towards removing the reproach of being unorganised. The funds had been supported by those who went in for poultry-farming in a small way, rather than by those who make a livelihood by it. The official report of the last conference had been in great demand, almost every country asking for copies, which showed that the dominion was being closely watched as regards its methods of poultry-farming. The association, in order to make its influence more widely felt, badly needed to have its rules and regulations revised in an intelligent and progressive spirit.

The committee appointed to consider the proposed Dominion Co-operative Poultry Association reported that some such scheme as outlined at the last conference in Christchurch was desirable, but that the time for its adoption in its entirety was

not yet ripe. It was suggested that a beginning be made by the co-operation of poultrymen in the Wairarapa, Manawatu, and Wellington districts. This would be an admirable chance to demonstrate to the rest of the Dominion what could be accomplished by co-operation. Sydney was making splendid progress in this direction, much to the benefit of all poultry owners. Given fair support and capable management, the committee felt sure that before long all the poultry producers in the Dominion would be united in one co-operative effort.

A paper by Mr. H. D. Ackland, on "The principles of co-operation," was read by the secretary.

At the evening session Mr. F. Brown (Government poultry expert) gave a short lecture on "Commercialism," and invited questions on the subject. Dealing with the phenomenal laying of eggs, he stated that strain was what told. Modern methods of getting such a large number of eggs were in direct opposition to Nature's methods. In more ways than one, Nature was getting her own back. Being on the eve of the development of an export trade in eggs and poultry, it behoved breeders not to pay so much attention to quantity, but to take more stock of quality. Undoubtedly as the number of eggs produced increased, their size decreased in the same ratio.

Among other papers read were the following: "Marketing eggs," by Mr. W. Jessen; "Government Poultry Farms," by Mr. S. H. Scott; "Modern Poultry Culture," by Mr. J. B. Merrett; "Dry Feeding," by Mr. C. Martin; "Disposal of Poultry Products," by Mr. S. Brittain Bull; and "Sanitation and Housing of Poultry and Prevention of Disease," by Mr. A. W. Irvine.

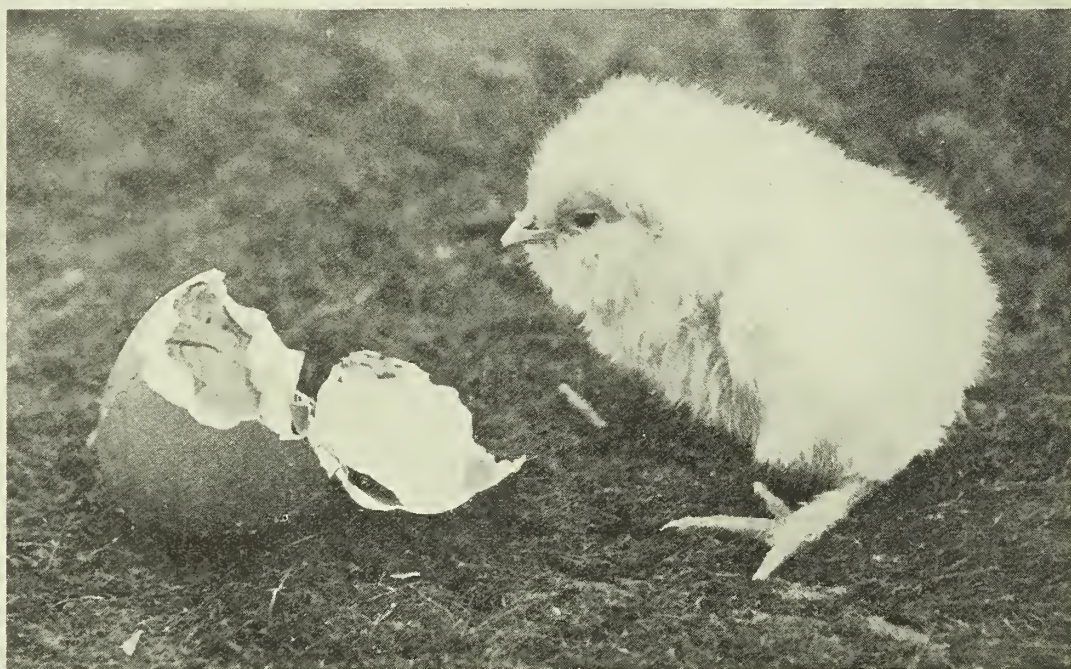
POULTRY COOKERY.

Ducks in Perfection.

ROAST DUCKS: Two small or medium sized birds make a much nicer dish than one large one, the latter being more suitable for stewing or braising. Take a couple then, of well-fed plump ducks, and after they have been properly prepared, lard the breasts in the usual way with strips of fat bacon. Cook the birds carefully either before a clear, moderately hot fire, or in a well-heated oven, in either case basting them freely and frequently whilst roasting. Sometimes the ducks are stuffed, and in this case any of the forcemeats mentioned below can be used, but it is a safer plan or serve the stuffing in a separate dish as tastes vary so much in this respect, many people having the idea that the natural flavour of the birds, which is so delicious, is sufficient in itself. This point, therefore, must be left an open question. When done enough, serve the ducks on a hot dish with a small quantity of good gravy poured over them, and send apple sauce and more gravy to table as accompaniments.

BRAISED DUCKS: Take a fine large bird and cook it as already directed for fifteen or twenty minutes until it gets well browned, then put it into a stewpan with a pint of good gravy, two dozen chestnuts previously roasted and peeled, two or three onions sliced and fried in a little butter then well drained, a bunch of savoury herbs and a seasoning of salt and pepper. Cover the pan closely and stew gently until the duck is sufficiently cooked, then put it on its dish and keep it hot while the sauce is being finished. To do this add a quarter of a pint of port wine to the gravy in the stewpan and sufficient roux—or butter well meaded with flour—to thicken it to the desired consistency, then boil up the whole for a minute or two, remove the herbs, and pour the sauce over the bird; arrange the chestnuts round about, and serve the whole very hot.

STEWED DUCK: Even quite an old bird can be rendered tender and juicy if cooked according to the following directions. Cut half a pound of very prime bacon first into slices, then into pieces about half an inch wide, and fry these in a little pure fat until just lightly browned; sprinkle lightly with flour and when this has been thoroughly incorporated add a pint of good stock, an onion stuck with half a dozen cloves, a bunch of savoury herbs and a little salt and pepper if required, then bring to the boil. Have ready a fine plump duck—no matter if it is rather ancient—which has been neatly cut up and fried quickly in the bacon fat until well browned, and after it has been drained put it into the stewpan with the other items; cover closely and stew gently, adding a little more stock if required, then about half an hour before the bird is to be taken up add a quart



"JUST OUT."

of freshly-shelled green peas, and continue the stewing until the cooking is satisfactorily finished. When done enough remove the herbs and the onion, and pour off any liquid there may be, then arrange the duck neatly on a well heated dish and put it to keep hot for a few minutes. Put some white roux with the peas and toss them lightly over a moderate heat until they are nicely coated, then spoon them out carefully over the duck. Garnish round about with small heaps of sage and onion stuffing, and smoothly mashed potatoes arranged alternately, and send to table very hot accompanied by some pleasantly flavoured brown gravy of a smooth creamy consistency.

SALMI OF DUCK : Take a couple of fine well-fed birds and after preparing them in the usual way, roast them carefully and while still hot cut them up neatly into small joints and slices, and when these have been nicely trimmed cover them over in a cool place until required. Break the bones up small and put them into a stewpan with all the odd trimmings, a bunch of herbs, two or three sliced tomatoes, a dozen roughly chopped button mushrooms, a seasoning of salt and pepper, two large tablespoonfuls of minced onion, a pint and a half of good brown sauce, a glass of port or good sherry, an ounce of glaze and a large teaspoonful of brown rous, and simmer together for about half an hour; then strain the sauce, which should be smooth, thick, and creamy, and exceedingly good in flavour, and put it into another stewpan; add the prepared birds and allow the whole to get thoroughly hot without reaching point. When ready pile up the ducks neatly on a flat bed of well mashed and seasoned potatoes and pour the sauce over. Garnish round about with appropriate items, such as curled bacon, forcemeat balls, sliced lemons, crisply-fried croutons, sprigs of fried parsley, olives, mushrooms, tomatoes, etc., etc., according to taste and convenience, and serve very hot.

SAGE AND ONION STUFFING : Peel six or eight large onions and blanch them properly, then boil them in equal parts of milk and water until three parts cooked, after which drain well, chop finely, and mix them with three ounces of fresh butter, six ounces of fine bread crumbs, and a seasoning to taste of salt, pepper, fresh lemon juice, and powdered sage. When the various ingredients are thoroughly blended the stuffing is ready for use.

APPLE STUFFING : Peel, core, and cut into slices as many good cooking apples as will fill the birds, then put them into a stewpan with sufficient sugar to sweeten pleasantly, and a few tablespoonfuls of cold water and stew gently until about half cooked, then, if a rather sharp flavour is preferred, add a small quantity of strained lemon juice, and use.

POTATO STUFFING : Wash, peel, and cut into slices the requisite quantity of good mealy potatoes, and put them into a stewpan with a large onion finely chopped, two ounces of butter, and a seasoning to taste of salt, pepper, and powdered sage—or mixed herb powder if preferred—and stew slowly until the potatoes are partially cooked, being careful to shake the pan frequently in order to avoid the contents burning or sticking to the bottom of the pan. In about ten minutes the stuffing will be quite ready for use.

CHESTNUT STUFFING : Prepare the chestnuts as directed for "braised ducks," then simmer them until tender in good white stock; after being well drained add two ounces of fresh butter, a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, two large tablespoonfuls of minced par-boiled onion, and a seasoning of salt, pepper, and strained lemon juice, mix well, and use.

THE INDIAN POULTRY CLUB.

We have been permitted to see and to quote from an interesting letter received by a gentleman in this country, written by Mr. W. E. Botting, of Lucknow, Hon. Sec. of the Indian Poultry Club. It is a pleasure to know that efforts are being put forth to develop the poultry industry in the great dependancy. The writer says :

"The Indian Poultry Club was inaugurated in December, 1910, at a meeting held after the Poultry Show at the Allahabad Exhibition. It took some time to get things into working order, and a large amount of correspondence ensued before the patronage of H. E. the Viceroy, and the Governors and Lieutenant Governors of provinces was secured. Many points had to be explained by letters, as personal interviews are rendered impossible through the distances between the head-quarters of the club and the provinces. Eventually success attended our efforts and at the General Meeting in March last the rules were passed and the club is now in a position to fulfil the objects for which it was brought into existence.

"The club will not, however, confine itself to the bare objects defined in rule 2 of the club rules (shows). Anything in the interests of poultry and poultry breeders in India will be given careful attention, and as new lines open up the operations of the club will be extended, *e.g.*, the improvement and standardisation of indigenous breeds. Research work commencing with the father of all fowls—the Jungle cock, are two lines which have suggested themselves, and which will be dealt with in the first issue of the club's official organ, the *Indian Poultry Gazette*, which it is hoped will appear in June, 1913.

"I propose to bring the Society to the notice of readers of the Gazette, and to suggest the collection of data regarding eggs, their size in relation to breed, surroundings, feeding and climate; their powers of resistance to the climate, fertile and infertile being recorded separately, also bacteriological examination, if I can get the Medical College expert here to do it; methods of preservation and other points as they arise. These experiments should prove exceptionally interesting in centres where temperatures run up to 110° and 120° in the shade.

"I am trying to induce members to take up experimental breeding with the Jungle Fowl, but before I can do this, I have to arrange for a supply of young stock, which I hope to do when at the Hills in August next. My idea is to supply members in areas specially selected for their wide variations in climatic conditions, and get them to take regular notes of the changes the birds undergo as they mature. Then they will be crossed with different breeds both indigenous and imported, and notes kept. This should lead to some particularly interesting observations"

REVIEW OF PRESENT METHODS OF MARKETING EGGS AND CONSEQUENT LOSSES.

[The following are extracts from an interesting article appearing in a report issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and which may be equally applied to the United Kingdom.]

THE FLAT RATE SYSTEM AND THE COUNTRY MERCHANT.



HE farmer is not the only one accountable for the heavy shrinkage in market eggs. Along the course of trade through which eggs pass, there are other handlers commonly known as "middlemen," with whom should be placed much of the responsibility. This is true because of the system which they invariably employ in the purchase of the farmers' eggs. This system is known as the "case count," or "flat rate" system, and consists of paying one common price for all eggs.

The country merchant, who is usually the first to receive the farmer's eggs, is in the habit of receiving weekly or semi-weekly quotations from large egg dealers, and upon these quotations he bases his price. The evil feature of this system is in the fact that no consideration whatever is given to the question of quality. The farmer who is in the habit of supplying the merchant with an attractive lot of clean and strictly fresh eggs receives no more in price than the farmer whose eggs are small, soiled, stale, or part of which are bad and entirely unfit for consumption. The result is that the farmer is in no way induced to properly care for the product upon the farm. There is also held out to unscrupulous producers the temptation to include in the case prepared for the market, eggs that are known to be of questionable quality. Though the merchant to whom such eggs are sold has absolute knowledge, or, at least, well-founded suspicions, that the eggs brought in by the farmer are not fresh as represented, he usually prefers to accept them without making the slightest complaint. The merchant's policy is to cultivate as large a trade as possible in eggs. He knows that by so doing other departments of his business will be proportionately increased. As a result he is strongly tempted to bid high for eggs, seeking to outdo his competitors, knowing that if he chances to lose on the eggs he handles he can very easily make the loss good, simply by inflating proportionately the cost of the miscellaneous articles the farmer desires to purchase or take in trade.

Still another practice of some local merchants is to advertise two prices; one a cash price, and the other a trade price, usually about two cents higher than the cash price. If the farmer is determined to have cash he is forced to be satisfied with the lower price. If, on the other hand, he consents to take groceries or other goods in trade for his eggs, he is represented as being paid the higher price. In reality this higher one is not the real price, but a fictitious one which is set by the merchant for no

other purpose than to secure the farmer's trade. Upon the account form rendered by the merchant there may be represented goods to the value of the the eggs figured out at the higher price, but at the same time the merchant is often careful to increase the cost of the goods taken in trade equal to the advance given for eggs, or in some other way make up the difference.

Another evil of this "case count," or "flat rate" system, is that the innocent suffer with the guilty. Those farmers who are supplying the markets with strictly fresh eggs, and of first quality in other respects as well, suffer from the low price, caused by the presence of inferior eggs supplied by others who are careless, or perhaps dishonest in their dealings. Commission merchants know what shrinkage to count on at certain seasons of the year, and naturally they pay a price which is sufficiently low to cover at least a portion of that shrinkage. And not only does the unoffending farmer suffer by reason of this present antiquated system of marketing eggs, but the equally innocent consumer is at the same time charged a higher price to assist in covering the shrinkage or so-called loss suffered by commission merchants.

THE HUCKSTER.

The travelling egg buyer, commonly known as the huckster, figures very prominently in the egg trade of Ontario. His custom in some sections is to call at the doors of the farm houses and solicit the purchase of the farmer's eggs. In other sections he will establish himself in some convenient central point—usually a small village in the midst of a good trading section—and announce to the farmers in the community that on a certain day he will receive their eggs. As a rule, there is little or no competition, and needless to say he buys at his own price. From here he passes on to another point, duplicating the practice on the following day. From the standpoint of quality in eggs received by the larger markets, those received from the huckster generally compare very favorably with those coming from other sources. It is the usual practice of the huckster to make regular weekly collections. Where farmers are in the habit of selling to him regularly, such eggs are fair in quality. But, with this system, the price received by the farmer is usually not so high.

While the huckster, as a rule, makes regular weekly shipments to the larger markets, careless or deliberate holding of eggs is sometimes his practice. In one instance which came under our notice, a large quantity of eggs was left over by the huckster in an ordinary shed for a whole week during the hottest weather experienced in the summer of 1911. His excuse for holding these eggs was that his

waggon was overloaded, and that if the eggs were shipped by express or freight, his profit would be too small. However, it is worthy of note that at that particular time the market price for eggs was on the upgrade.

THE LOCAL MARKET.

In many small country towns, particularly in districts surrounding large consuming centres, there have been established market places which are utilized by farmers on a set day of each week, for the exclusive purpose of selling poultry, eggs and butter to visiting agents of large produce firms. It is often stated in support of the local market that this system is superior to all others, for the reason that there is keen competition between the buyers, and because of this, high prices rule. But the most superficial investigation will give one well founded suspicions that, as a rule, there is no trace of the avowed competition, but in its stead, an arrangement to pay a certain fixed price. Here, too, all eggs are brought on the "case count" basis.

Though these are the most important methods by which farmers dispose of their eggs, there is still one other that is worthy of notice. A certain proportion of the better and more progressive farmers, in seeking to obtain a higher price for their eggs, pass by one or more middlemen and deal directly with large produce houses, retail stores, or with the final consumer. Such eggs are generally of a higher grade and are acknowledged by those accustomed to receiving them, to be of a

better class than eggs marketed in any other way.

CANDLING AND GRADING MARKET EGGS.

While by no means all eggs delivered to the larger markets are candled, there is that portion of the trade, handled by the large produce dealers, which is carefully examined and graded. The process of candling consists simply in the examination of the egg in a dark room before an opening in a shield covering a small incandescent light or coal oil lamp. Before such a light, an egg appears comparatively transparent, sufficiently so to enable the expert to determine the extent to which the contents of the egg have evaporated, or the degree to which the egg has deteriorated in quality. This process of course is costly, taking considerable time and expert service, adding not only to the cost of eggs to the consumer, but to the reduction of the farmer's receipts.

However, it is fortunate for the general public, at least of large consuming centres where such establishments are operating, that such eggs are to be had, and that they are subjected to such careful examination. In buying candled eggs consumers may feel comparatively sure that the eggs they are purchasing are as represented.

THE TOWN OR CITY RETAILER.

On the other hand, there is a portion of the trade which comes from the county storekeeper, the huckster, or the farmer, directly to the retail merchant, which, as a rule, is not candled or graded. Consumers in villages and outlying towns



A poultry house at a Danish country seat.

The above illustration shows a poultry house at a Danish country seat. The sleeping compartments are found on each side of the poultry house, and are built of brick, and in the middle of the house is arranged a large scratching shed well furnished with large windows taken from an old hot-house. The floor in the sleeping room is made of wood, and in the scratching shed it consists of sand mixed with earth. In summer time all windows are removed and replaced with wire netting. The scratching sheds are made of timber.

The fowls—White Leghorns—have large runs well planted with old fruit trees.

are supplied with this class of ungraded eggs almost entirely. Consequently they have to assume the entire risk. This practice undoubtedly results in a great curtailment of consumption, and indirectly loss to the industry. To illustrate the truth of this general statement it may be said that the housewife, in buying bad eggs is so disgusted that the next time when eggs are desired, she determines that something more dependable must be bought. The consequence is fewer eggs are purchased, the price goes down and the reputation of this commodity is seriously injured.

Nor is the retail merchant always free from blame in the matter of selling deteriorated eggs. Often his zeal for business seemingly overcomes his reason and he apparently forgets, or is ignorant of the fact that eggs take on strong odors in a favorable atmosphere, as in a room where kerosene is stored; that they become mouldy and musty if placed in damp locations; and that they actually hatch into chickens if placed in a suitable temperature. The merchant is often as much in need of education as the farmer.

THE BACK-YARD RUN.

AS everybody's back-yard or garden varies in shape, aspect, or other particular, one cannot do more than give the amateur a general idea as to what to aim at in erecting his house and run. In the first place, I may say that the idea of an open run (that is, one uncovered to the sky) can only be entertained where the ground is very dry, the slope or drainage good, and the space large. In fact, I never recommend the use of such a run unless it can be made large enough to divide into two, so that one side may be cropped while the other is being occupied. It is only thus that it can be kept pure and wholesome, for a grass run, under the circumstances, is out of the question. But with a smaller run, covered over and with a hard floor, matters are much simplified, for not only is such a one more easily cleaned, but it is more hygienic, and, in proportion to its size, can take more birds than an open one.

The amateur, may, therefore, in most cases decide upon having a roosting-house and run under one roof. He may make them any size he likes so long as he remembers that not less than twelve square feet of run are allotted to each fowl, the roosting compartment, under such conditions, being rather less than half the size of the run. The type of house generally selected for these small runs is what is known as the "lean-to," and it is, for convenience and economy, usually placed against a wall at the end of the garden, with the highest side of the roof to the back. Now, a moment's thought will convince anyone that the latter arrangement is a wrong one, for the roof of a house so placed will effectually prevent any sun from entering and the interior is most difficult to ventilate. A slope from back to front is very well in a vinery or cucumber frame when the sun can pass *through* the roof, but in a lean-to poultry-house it is just the reverse. The sun beats on the roof in summer and nearly bakes the hens, and in winter, when it is most wanted, they get scarcely any rays at all.

Perhaps the most important part of any such house and run, and one that must be given the first attention, is the floor, which must be both dry and rat-proof. Cheapness, consistent with durability, is what we all want, and one of the best floors that

ever I saw was made as follows: The earth was dug away from a space about 1 ft. wider than the house and shed, each way to a depth of 1 ft. This was filled with old rubble and builders' refuse, and after being beaten down firmly covered with a layer of coarse gravel. Over this some fine-mesh wire-netting was stretched and so cut that it overlapped with about 12 in. to spare on every side. Then on the top of that a strong layer of asphalt made of tar, pitch, coarse gravel, and lime was laid. When dry the house and run, built on a strong bottom frame, were placed on the asphalt, and the overlapping edges of wire-netting were drawn up all round and stapled to the woodwork. That was a cheap floor, thoroughly rat-proof and dry, and as durable as granite. The house which it supported was not, of course, in part formed of the adjacent wall, and this for many reasons. In the first place, a garden wall or boundary fence is often irregularly built, or so made that it is impossible for one to utilise it as part of a wooden lean-to, and yet keep all dry, draught-proof, and free from rats. If the surface of a wall is cemented and made to form the back wall of the house it often serves its purpose well, but it is doubtful whether it will be cheaper than wood in the end. Then a wooden house and run standing on the asphalt may always be removed by the tenant, if need be, whereas difficulties may arise over the matter, were it fixed to the wall by plaster of any kind, such as cement.

A house that slopes towards the back should have a wide eave and a gutter to carry off rain-water, and this important point is much more easily managed with a house that has its own wooden back standing a few inches away from the garden fence.

Anywhere where wood is cheap the amateur carpenter can put up a house such as I have briefly described without detailed directions, which often make wearisome reading. But I will say this, that unless material can be obtained at a moderate price and time is no object it is cheaper to buy the parts of the house in sections, and any good appliance firm will supply exactly what is required from measurement. But for the guidance of those who would like to put their own house up I would advise 2 by 3 quartering for frame and uprights and $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 in. boards (tongued and grooved). The

skeleton of quartering must be made first, and all boards nailed on the *outside* perpendicularly. The roof may be of the same material, felted and tarred (the tar should be applied hot and have 1lb. of dissolved pitch added to each gallon), or it may be made with very thin matching covered with corrugated iron. The latter should not be used without a lining of wood or felt. Use the best, heavy gauge, wire-netting (1in. mesh) for the open part, and make the nests so that the attendant can get at them by means of a lid from the outside. The perches must be movable, resting in slots, and they are best quite round, and about 2in. in diameter. Flat perches cause crooked breasts, "duck feet," and twisted toes. A "dropping-board," sprinkled with sand, should be placed under the perches so as to prevent the excrement dropped during the night from getting among the litter, and it should be movable also. In warm and sheltered places the partition between the house and run, in which a door is fitted, may have the upper part of its highest corner of open wire-work, but in the north it may be entirely closed, the window (with adjustable shutter) at the front being sufficient for ventilation and light. A run, such as I have described, (to hold six or seven birds the size of Minorcas) should be 7ft. by 12ft. on the ground, 6ft. high at the front, and 3ft. 6in. at the back. The roosting accommodation ought then to be about 4ft. in width, the other dimensions being, of course, as above.

THE HEN AS A CANARY.

"HOME COUNTIES" writes: "I have no serious fault to find with your friendly and amusing Notes on my account of the experiment in keeping hens like canaries, which has been lately begun by an American poultry enthusiast in the country in which I reside. But I need not say that I do not agree with the statement that I am to become an advocate of intensification! Readers of my article will note the qualifications sprinkled all over my article. I am as doubtful as ever I have been of an adequate monetary return from the ordinary effort to make a living out of breakfast eggs from stock kept on a limited area. I am also as suspicious as ever of tall stories from America. But when a poultry keeper shows me a big house full of hens which have been indoors for some months, have no fleas on them, and are dropping eggs all over the place, it is only honest and open-minded to set down the facts. Along with those facts, however, I was very careful to state that Mr. Barnard was a quite exceptional man, while the average poultry farming novice is quite an average mortal; and, in the second place that the results I saw, while interesting and no doubt important, must be considered in relation to the state of things some time hence. What we want to see is not only the beginning but the end of such an experiment."

"Alas! continues 'Home Counties,' before the magazine containing my article was off the machine, my experimenter had gone! His house is now in the hands of a friend of mine, Mr. Jameson, of Takeley, who has been so successful with Campines. It will be very interesting to see what he without the American experience, is able to accomplish with the system. Mr. Barnard himself is in Belgium, your readers may be interested to know. The manner of his going was unusual. An American lady, who is married to a Belgian gentleman and is greatly interested in Campines, landed in this country, and by indomitable travelling managed to see nearly all the Campines in the country worth seeing inside of two days. In the course of her flight she looked in upon Mr. Jameson, who, you will remember, was a Dairy Show medallist or first prize winner. From his yard, she beheld the roof of Mr. Barnard's establishment and made for it. In half an hour she had taken in all its points, and had invited Mr. Barnard to close down and come to her estate in Belgium! Mr. Barnard, being an American, promptly came to terms, and within a week was in Belgium. He is there now, getting upon an utility basis a poultry farm which hitherto has been chiefly interested in show birds. I believe he stipulated that he should have as large a head of stock as he deemed necessary, and I believe it will reach four figures. His difficulties must be considerable, but if pluck and go can make a success of his new venture, I think he may come out on top. At present his chief trouble seems to be lack of poultry grit. He appears to have had to send to England for the right sort. I hope one day to look him up and find out how the experiment begun in Essex has culminated in Belgium. Meantime I repeat that I will not back myself, nor for the matter of that any other poultry keeper I know, to take on a proposition like Mr. Barnard's. He is exceptionally well qualified for making money out of hens, and novices who start without being exceptionally well qualified may well pray for the gift of self examination, for in poultry keeping, as in many other walks of life, it does not follow that that what one man is able to achieve, Tom, Dick, and Harry are likely to bring off."

WHAT SIX GOSLINGS ACCOMPLISHED.

"A workman under the trustees of the road, a man considerably past his prime, and whose weekly pay was only 8s., from which 1s. 9d. was deducted for the rent of his little cottage and garden. This man, from the difficulties, with a large family, of making both ends meet, not infrequently undertook little jobs at the close of his general duties, at six in the evening. It was on such an occasion the stepping-stone to future comparative affluence suddenly awaited him; for, going to a farm house, and, work ended, he was asked into the kitchen for refreshment, and there, in a basket, placed before

the fire, were six young goslings, the parent bird had been killed a day or two previously, by some mischievous wanderers from the town, who, because she naturally defended her newly-hatched offspring from the rude advances of their dog, deliberately destroyed her by stone throwing, and then speedily absconded. Truly had it been said "the wind is a bad one that blows luck to no one," for being only a few days old, and neglected, their owner, speaking to my informant, said, "they will never be reared," and if you like, Robert, to take them home, and be bothered with them, you can have them." The offer was at once thankfully accepted, and though almost all the goslings were now perfectly unable to stand from sheer exhaustion, the result of careful attention proved what can be done under difficulties, all were reared! and thus two ganders and four geese were now located in a slope-roofed hut, purposely erected against the back wall of their present owner's cottage."

The story tells that a gander and goose were given at Christmas to the original donor, and then proceeds:

"During the season two (geese) sat twice each, and the other produced a single hatch. Memory will not tell the exact produce of this year, but sufficiently close for my purposes. Of an eleven, two nines, and a seven, I am confident, the number of the remaining brood I have forgotten, but as all were reared except two, it amounted to fully forty. With the money raised by the sale of these birds at autumn, a small heifer was purchased, and the year following, a second was obtained by the same means, while their owner's well-merited success did not induce supineness, and some few years afterwards we find the once indigent cottager comfortably situated as the tenant of a small farm of thirty-four acres, with a dairy of seven cows, a good team, and several pigs feeding."—*Poultry Chronicle*, 1854.

Cornell and Co-operation.

Among other services rendered, the Department of Poultry Husbandry at Cornell University is now organising the farmers in the vicinity of Ithaca, N.Y. into a co-operative association for the sale of produce, in which it is claimed that already the average returns are $1\frac{1}{2}$ d per dozen above what would otherwise have been obtained.

The Cocks of Chicago.

The great city by Lake Michigan is nothing if it is not noisy. According to a correspondent of the *Daily News* an attempt is to be made to make it the first noiseless city in America.

"The roosters in suburban Chicago are as great a nuisance as phonographs in the city itself. How should the City Council prevent the crowing effectively but mercifully? Two plans are being considered; one to isolate the roosters "in boxes which prevent the birds extending their necks," and another to remove one of the bird's vocal cords. The latter plan is considered the most scientific. The removal, it is said, can be performed painlessly, and henceforth a soft and rather pleasing whistle replaces the rooster's morning crow."

Egg-laying Competitions (*Dept. of Agric., New South Wales, Farmers' Bulletin No. 57*).

On April 1st, 1912, ten years' work in connection with the egg-laying competitions conducted at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College was completed. The following table sets out the results of these tests during the ten-year period:—

Year.	No. of Pens.	Winning Total.	Lowest Total.	Average per hen.	Average Price of Eggs.	Average value per Hen.	Feed per Hen.	Profit over Feed.
1st	38	1,113	459	130	s. d. 1 1	s. d. 15 6	s. d. 6 0	s. d. 9 6
2nd	70	1,308	666	163	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	17 9	5 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 0
3rd	100	1,224	532	152	1 0	12 9	4 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 3
4th	100	1,411	635	166	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 3	5 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 0
5th	100	1,481	721	171	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 10	5 10	9 0
6th	60	1,474	665	173	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 2	7 0	10 2
7th	50	1,379	656	150	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	19 2	7 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 4
8th	60	1,394	739	181	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 9	6 9	15 0
9th	40	1,221	653	168	1 2	16 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 2
10th	50	1,489	687	184	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 4

The value of feeding laying hens with animal food in conjunction with their ordinary rations was tested in connection with the tenth competition. Ten pens of pullets (six birds per pen) were fed without animal food, and the results contrasted with the yield of ten pens of pullets of similar age, strain, and breed, entered by the same owners. These latter ten pens were fed with meat in the form of boiled bullocks' livers and the soup therefrom at the rate of about 2lbs. of liver per week to each pen. The average results showed that the addition of meat to the diet is of some advantage in inducing the production of eggs, but this only amounted to an increase of six eggs per hen for the year, and an additional gain of 6d. per hen for the extra eggs produced.

NO MEAT V. MEAT FEEDING TEST.

	No Meat.	Meat Fed.
Total eggs laid	11,112	11,646
Average per hen	185.2	191.0
Market value per hen ...	18s. 10d.	19s. 4d.
Cost of feed per hen ...	5s. 10d.	6s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Profit over feed per hen ...	13s. 0d.	13s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In connection with this test it was noteworthy that while none of the White Leghorns receiving no meat exhibited signs of broodiness, there were five out of the thirty birds receiving meat which became broody.

TABLE OF PRICES REALISED FOR HOME, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POULTRY, GAME, AND EGGS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDING JUNE 14, 1913.

ENGLISH POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.					FOREIGN POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.				
DESCRIPTION.	1st Week.		2nd Week.		COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	PRICES REALIZED DURING THE MONTH.			
	Each.	Each.	Each.	Each.		CHICKENS. Each.	DUCKS. Each.	DUCKLINGS. Each.	GEES. Per lb.
Surrey Chickens ...	3/6 to 4/0	3/6 to 4/0	3/6 to 4/0	3/6 to 4/6	Russia	1/11 to 1/1	—	—	—
Sussex "	3/6 " 4/0	3/6 " 4/0	3/6 " 4/0	3/6 " 4/6	Belgium	—	—	—	—
Boston "	2/3 " 3/6	2/0 " 3/0	2/0 " 3/3	2/3 " 3/3	France	—	—	—	—
Essex "	2/6 " 3/6	2/3 " 3/3	—	2/6 " 3/6	United States of America ..	1/10 to 1/0	—	—	—
Capons	5/0 " 6/0	5/0 " 6/0	5/0 " 6/0	5/0 " 7/0	Austria	—	—	—	—
Irish Chickens	2/0 " 3/3	2/0 " 3/0	2/0 " 3/3	2/3 " 3/3	Canada	—	—	—	—
Live Hens	2/3 " 3/0	2/0 " 3/0	2/0 " 3/0	1/9 " 2/9	Australia	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury Ducklings	3/0 " 4/0	2/6 " 3/6	3/0 " 4/0	3/0 " 4/0					
Ducks	—	—	—	—					
Geese	5/0 " 6/6	5/0 " 6/6	4/0 " 6/0	4/0 " 6/0					
Turkeys, English ..	—	—	—	—					
Guinea Fowls	—	—	—	—					
ENGLISH GAME—LONDON MARKETS.					IMPORTS OF DEAD POULTRY & GAME. MONTH ENDING MAY 31ST, 1913.				
DESCRIPTION.	Each.		Each.		COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	DECLARED VALUES.			
	Each.	Each.	Each.	Each.		Poultry.	Game.		
Grouse	—	—	—	—	Russia	£454	£399		
Partridges	—	—	—	—	France	£3,184	£38		
Pheasants	—	—	—	—	Austria-Hungary	£6,869	£99		
Black Game	—	—	—	—	United States of America ..	£3,328			
Hares	—	—	—	—	Other Countries				
Rabbits, Game	1/0 " 2/3	1/0 " 2/0	1/0 " 2/0	1/0 " 2/0	Totals	£13,845	£586		
" Wild	—	—	—	—					
Pigeons, Tame	—	—	—	—					
" Wild	—	—	—	—					
Wild Duck	—	—	—	—					
Ptarmigan	—	—	—	—					
Sand Grouse	—	—	—	—					
Hazel Hens	—	—	—	—					
ENGLISH EGGS (Guaranteed New-Laid).					IMPORTS OF EGGS. MONTH ENDING MAY 31, 1913.				
MARKETS.	Per 120.		Per 120.		COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	DECLARED VALUES.			
	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.		Quantities in Gt. Hund.			
LONDON	8/0 to 9/0	8/0 to 8/6	8/6 to 9/6	8/6 to 9/0	Russia	1,012,385	£354,725		
Provinces.	Eggs per dozen.	Eggs per dozen.	Eggs per dozen.	Eggs per dozen.	Denmark	348,175	£152,179		
CARLISLE	9½	11	11	11	Germany	11,265	£4,461		
BRISTOL	10	10½	10½	10½	Netherlands ..	133,088	£57,547		
					France	112,806	£47,971		
					Italy	69,669	£29,125		
					Aust.-Hungary ..	22,200	£8,722		
					Other countries	83,165	£31,089		
					Totals	1,792,753	£685,819		

INTENSIVE POULTRY CULTURE.

BY MRS. BAYNES.

THE only excuse for a new system of poultry culture must be that it is either wholly better than any other system or that it has, at any rate, such merits and advantages as justify its being called a sound method.

Before I discuss the merits or demerits of intensive poultry culture, it is necessary first to define it, which may be briefly done by saying that it is the system of keeping poultry in perpetual close confinement under certain rules regarding hygiene, housing and feeding.

In considering whether this system is a good one the first question that naturally crops up is whether birds can be kept in as good or better health in close confinement as when given access to open runs or to full liberty. If we look at the matter dispassionately, is there any reason why they should not maintain their health in confinement, provided that the birds (in good health to start with) are assured of pure fresh air, adequate protection from inclement weather, warmth in severe cold, cleanliness, freedom from insect pests, and sufficient room, combined with judicious feeding. It is well-known fact that not only do very few birds die when travelling long distances to purchasers in distant lands, but that they generally arrive in tip-top health and condition. If that is possible when confined for some weeks in very cramped quarters, and sometimes with such accompanying conditions as they would never have under true intensive culture, why should they not keep in good health for years under distinctly more favorable conditions of confinement? It is fair to assume that they certainly should. Moreover, according to the experiences of many who have put this system to exhaustive tests and have given their experiences to the world in books which all can read, it would appear that there is every justification for stating that birds can be kept in perpetual close confinement without any disadvantage to their health, provided that certain simple rules in respect to housing, hygiene and feeding are observed.

Let me here remark that *true* intensive poultry culture means that the birds are *always* kept in suitable houses, not sometimes in and sometimes out, and have *always* dry scratchable litter. If birds are kept at one time in confinement and at another time are running out, that is not the truly intensive system, but a combination of intensive and extensive. Further, if birds in perpetual confinement are not *always* provided with dry scratchable litter a fundamental rule for the successful working of this system has been broken, and, if failure be the result, it is not the fault of the system but of the departure from it.

It is well to remember that hundreds of people in Great Britain have for many years successfully

kept fowls in good health in perpetual confinement, not, it is true, because they had ever considered it as a more advantageous method than one offering more liberty, but because it was the only one available to them. I refer to the "Backyarder." What is true intensive poultry culture more than what the backyarder has practised, so systematized and improved as to eliminate his faults and shortcomings, in so far at any rate as housing and hygiene are concerned, while continuing the confinement under conditions distinctly more favorable than most backyarders have ever dreamt of.

Let us consider whether there is not another good reason for concluding that birds are more calculated to maintain good health under the intensive system than under any other. I do not suppose that any expert authority on poultry matters will deny that one of the most important factors towards good health in the birds is the insurance of their getting nothing but pure fresh water. Under no system but the intensive can that really be insured, for when the fowls have their liberty, whether it be in a small run or on practically unlimited range, they will come across and drink impure water and consume garbage of all sorts.

The next point to consider is whether the keeping of birds in perpetual confinement is as profitable as when kept under systems with more liberty. Taking first the question of eggs for table, is it reasonable to suppose that birds properly housed and cared for in perpetual confinement should be more productive than those with access to open runs? I think the answer must be in the affirmative, for under the intensive system those conditions which are generally supposed to be adverse to egg-production are largely, if not entirely, eliminated. For instance, the birds are never exposed to rain and snow, and are sufficiently protected not to be affected by boisterous and inclement weather. Consequently, they are not so likely to be put off egg-laying as birds who are not thus immune. Therefore, theoretically, we may fairly expect birds under the intensive system to produce more eggs than birds running in the open. Again, as already stated, only under this system can they be secured from obtaining impure water, which, when we consider that there is nearly a pint of water in a dozen eggs, is a factor that cannot be neglected in endeavouring to maintain fowls in the best condition for laying.

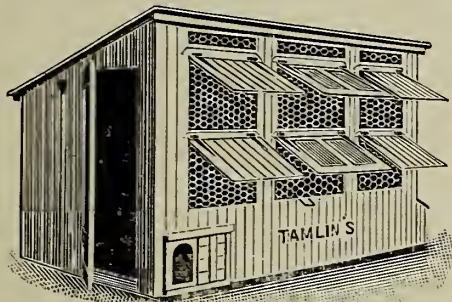
While on this question, too, of productiveness, it is wise to remember that quality as well as quantity must be, not only not lost sight of, but strenuously striven for, because the individual who can always supply reliable eggs of good flavour has a far surer and probably more remunerative market than the individual who cannot safeguard his birds from impure water and food.

I do not think any useful purpose would be served by quoting figures in proof of the greater egg-production of birds in perpetual confinement



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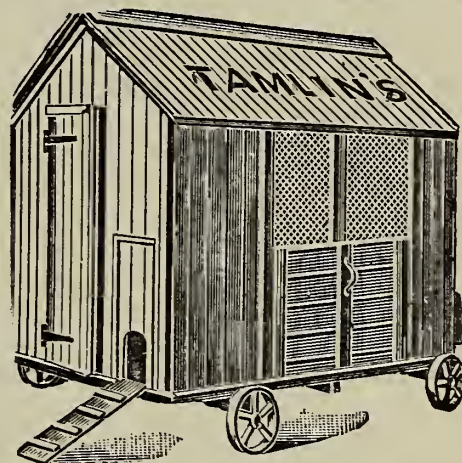
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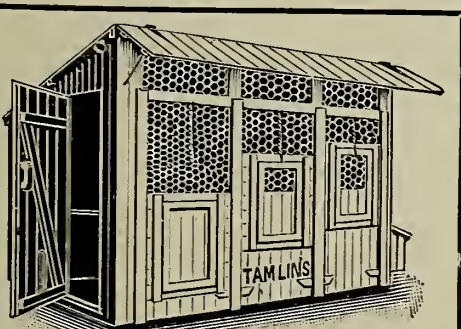
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over birds at liberty, as it is very difficult to arrive at a system of computation and comparison which would satisfactorily establish the superiority of one system over the other in this respect. The best proof of productiveness is the balance sheet at the end of the year. I venture to think that the intensive farmer will show a better balance credit to his hens, if not by actual number of eggs, by reason of his getting more eggs during those months when the prices run highest. In considering the question of which is the more profitable system, birds for table must not be omitted. Kept under the intensive system, birds will fatten for table without any trouble, and for delicacy of flavour would be hard to beat. The most profitable market is that where the bird of highest quality is in demand, and this delicacy of flavour, which my customers all remark on, is a valuable asset and is no doubt largely due to their having nothing but pure water and food.

AN OMITTED ELEMENT IN EGG PRODUCTION.

By ARTHUR BOSSERT.

WE human beings forget that primitive harmony is the most perfect of harmony. We are always inclined to be artificial, and so too, artificially, to treat our fowls. Especially at the present moment have we made a marked departure in this direction; I refer to the intensive system of poultry culture. But let it at once be understood, it is not my intention to disparage that system—even, artificial as it is—, on the contrary I am willing to praise it, for it is undoubtedly a good and valuable stone of an artificial building.

We wish to obtain eggs in winter. Is it reasonable to expect that which is unnatural under natural conditions? If we wish to produce eggs at a time when they cannot, normally, be expected, we shall have to resort to abnormal methods to bring about that which we desire. And here the intensive system fills the gap. Artificial in itself, the intensive system, however, unquestionably is—that must not be forgotten—and, if we have any sense of the natural at all, we shall instinctively realise that danger lies hidden somewhere.

If we place hens in a wooden house with possibly only a matter of two or three square feet of floor-space per bird, and feed them with food selected at our will, must we not expect to come across serious stumbling blocks occasionally? But, strange to say, to judge from my personal experience, these stumbling blocks are few. One, however, there undoubtedly is, and of this one it is my intention, here to speak. It is the fault we make of entirely ignoring the mineral salt components of our food-stuffs. The component parts of food-stuffs may be classed under the four main headings:

- Albuminoids, or flesh formers,
- Carbohydrates (Starch, Sugar), heat and work producers,
- Fats, a reserve substance for the production of heat and work, and mineral salts,

The last named are invariably ignored; actually they are the health-preservers and health-restorers, and without them we, as also our fowls, would be dead. And, marked by the proportion of their presence, is a spot along the line leading from life to death, the line called the line of health.

Since the publication of my book on feeding—and which book deals mainly with that problem from the mineral salt and health point of view—I am often asked the question: Is it actually possible to keep fowls in health on intensive lines, and is it possible to obtain really good and hatchable eggs in that way? To this question my reply is that, that undoubtedly is the case. And to this I may still add, that, according to my own personal experience, hens correctly fed as regards the whole of the constituents above-named—*the last of all not to be forgotten*—are far happier—in winter time at all events—, are healthier, and lay more eggs than their more fortunate (?) sisters at liberty with nothing but dead and valueless grass to peck at, hoping therefrom to obtain mineral salts they so badly need. Grass and green food in general, are certainly that upon which we have to rely principally for the supply of these much needed salts, but not dead winter grass.

And as with the hen, so with the eggs. A healthy hen lays a healthy egg, and a healthy egg brings forth a healthy chick.

Strange incident in the poultry world.

In these days of increased interest in poultry farming, an uncommon incident that came under my observation seems to deserve publicity. In a Dumbartonshire villiage lives a worthy man of many hobbies. He has recently turned his attention to poultry, and being intensely patriotic is firmly convinced that the old Scottish breed of fowl, called "The Dumpie," is worthy of more attention that it has received. My friend secured a hatching of chickens from parents of purest Dumpie strain, and nothing unusual happened until, at the age of five weeks, the mother deserted her brood and resumed her usual avocation of laying eggs to supply the breakfast table. In vain the chicks chirped to their heartless mother to descend from her spar and cover them with her wings. To all entreaty she turned a deaf ear, and seemed quite unconcerned at the distress of her progeny. Meantime "the rooster" was contemplating the scene, and strange feelings stirred within his noble breast. Unable to endure the misery of his children he descended from his wonted roosting-place and covered the chicks with his expansive wings. This the rooster has continued to do for some weeks, and the conduct of the bird has evoked great interest in the village. Cocks are occasionally found to take a kindly interest in chickens and summon them to morsels of food, but not often is a male bird found in the poultry yard with maternal instincts so well developed as in this grey dumpie of the Dumbartonshire villiage.—C.A.M., in the Scotsman.

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CAUSES OF DISEASE.

IT is a very old saying that prevention is better than cure, and as to the truth of this statement there cannot be two opinions. It can only be made effective, however, by a knowledge of some of the causes of disease, so that the poultry-keeper may know what dangers to avoid, what to do under certain circumstances, and what not to do under others. It requires some experience to understand when the border-line is reached and to discriminate so as to know when benefit ceases and danger is inevitable. As a simple example, animal food, at certain seasons, and at certain periods in the life of fowls, is of the greatest value; but if it be given in excess it becomes a danger and a fruitful cause of disease. A further instance illustrative of this point is in connexion with in-breeding. It is frequently claimed that this is responsible for much disease, in that the birds have a weakness which owes its origin to the consanguineous mating of the parents. This is quite possible, and as a matter of fact it is probable, when close breeding is carried on by a man who does not possess the knowledge to enable him to select the right birds for the purpose. It may be imagined that in-breeding is inbreeding, whether it be conducted by the inexperienced novice or by the breeder of life-long standing. Certainly the actual in-breeding is the same, but results are entirely different. The novice merely breeds from related stock without any thought as to the next generation. The man of experience can use stock of much closer relationship than were the birds used by the novice, and not only does no harm accrue from the union, but advantage in some specific direction is gained without the penalty of any bodily weakness, since the breeder knows exactly the qualities to look for in the birds that are to be mated.

Mention may be made of the three chief causes of disease—negligence in housing, inattention to sanitation, and overstocking the land. There is no end to the evils of bad housing, there being so many diseases that owe their beginning to the manner in which the fowls are housed, diseases which perhaps started in a very mild form, but often are the forerunner of much more serious complaints. Roup is one of the most deadly scourges of the poultry-yard when it once gets established. This may frequently be traced to what appears to be merely a slight cold. The eyes and nostrils have a sticky discharge, and the birds may have a cough, which goes to strengthen the impression that it is merely a cold, and will probably disappear naturally—as cold will without treatment. In a few days, however, the unfailing signs of roup are apparent, and it can no longer be mistaken for simply a cold. The contagion of the disease is sufficient—even if the symptoms are not—to prove otherwise. In addition to roup, catarrh and other forms of cold could one and all be prevented, since they are usually caused by a draught in the sleeping quarters. Freedom from this is an abso-

lute necessity if the inmates are to be kept from colds and the evils that follow in their wake. Badly fitting joints, or boards not closely joined together, or a downward current of air, is each quite sufficient to cause trouble, and yet they can be so simply remedied with very little trouble and practically no expense.

The material of which the house is constructed more often than otherwise is too thin, the wind almost blowing through; in such houses as these the birds are always roosting in a cold atmosphere, which is far from conducive to their well-being. Ventilation is of first importance, since this is doubtless a great factor towards the maintenance of health. The aim should be to secure adequate ventilation, at the same time avoid a draught. It is equally important that cleanliness be strictly observed, for this will assist very considerably in keeping the air sweet. All the internal fittings, such as perches and nest-boxes, should be simply constructed, and made so that they can be easily and quickly removed. This will ensure the attendant reaching all the corners and crevices when cleaning. The perches may rest in slots, cut in the framework of the house, and they are thus easily taken out.

Frequent renewal of the litter also goes far to keep the house in a sanitary condition. In all I have said in connexion with housing, I have studiously avoided anything that is not of the simplest nature, with the intention of showing that it is not palatial houses, expensive patent ventilating air-shafts, and other luxuries that are necessarily required to keep fowls in good, healthy condition, but, rather, attention to the salient points already mentioned. This does not need outlay, but merely a little common sense brought to bear to minimise the danger of disease.

How many fowls will the land carry without danger of disease arising from contaminated soil? This is a matter upon which it is difficult to advise, as an answer given might admirably suit the conditions of some, while it might be quite fatal to the condition of others. This is more a matter which must be determined by each poultry-keeper for himself. The breeds vary considerably as to the amount of space they can with safety occupy. The nature of the soil, whether light, heavy medium, drained or undrained, the amount of shelter-herbage that is grown, and methods of housing are all governing factors. The tendency of most poultry-keepers is to overcrowd, and this is a mistake made by the experienced as well as by the beginner. There is no doubt that the temptation in this direction is one that is not easy to resist. It must, however, be resisted if the birds are to thrive. Impure ground is an inciting cause of liver disease, cholera, enteritis, diphtheria, and, among chickens, that devastating scourge, gapes. Excellent remedies for the purification of the land have appeared from time to time in the columns of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD, and there is no

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necessity to repeat them now, since I am writing of the cause of these diseases, which may all be prevented by reducing the number of fowls on the land.

The present is an excellent time of year to carry this into effect, since the chickens are mostly of an age when they can be drafted out, according to the object for which they are intended, whether for market or stock purposes. In addition to this they have now reached an age when their characteristics are sufficiently pronounced to enable one to select the best, and the wasters can be disposed of, which will in many poultry-yards considerably reduce the number.

THE POULTRY CLUB.

The Monthly Meeting of the Council was held on Friday, the 13th June, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Amongst those present were Mr. L. C. Verry in the chair, The Rev. T. W. Sturges, Miss S. Carey, Captain Ralph R. Allen, and Messrs. Ernest E. Doughty, R. Fletcher Hearnshaw, Harold Corrie, William Rice, Albert Smith, P. H. Bayliss, W. J. Golding, C. Tyrwhitt-Drake, and T. Threlford, Hon. Sec.

Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following new members were elected:—

Recommended by the Essex Branch—

Mr. F. W. Ashby, "Belmont," Mawney Road, Romford.

Recommended by the Hampshire Branch—

Mr. H. Lawrence, Myrtle Cottage, St. Ives, Ringwood.

Recommended by the Lancashire Branch—

Mr. H. S. Anthony (Robert Anthony), Euxton, near Chorley.

Mr. Robert W. Whiteside, Talbot Saw Mills, Blackpool.

Mr. N. Driver-Williams, Kenwyn, Pilton Bridge, Barnstaple.

Mr. John Hosking, 15, Spencer Terrace, Lipson Road, Plymouth.

Mr. S. H. Hill (The 20th Century Poultry Food Co.), 1, Station Road, South Brent.

Mr. F. E. Pope, Great Toller, Dorchester.

Mr. E. G. Hoare, Monkton Combe Poultry Farm, Bath.

The following Societies were duly associated:—

Hailsham and District Fanciers' Association, Hon. Sec., Mr. G. A. Thornton, St. Wilfrid's Cottage, Hailsham.

Stamford and District Horse and Poultry Society, Hon. Sec., Mr. P. J. Bradshaw, Borderville, Stamford.

The following shows announced to be held under Club Rules were granted Specials:—

Whitchurch and District, Leghorn, Plymouth Rock, and Andalusian Club, Hayward's Heath Fanciers' Association, Kenilworth and District Horticultural Society, Laxfield and District Horticultural and Poultry Society, Mid-Cheshire Farmers' Association, South Brent Poultry and Pigeon Show, Sussex County Agricultural Society, Tunbridge Wells and South-Eastern Counties Agricultural Society, Lewes Fanciers' Association, Hastings and District Fanciers' Association, Brighton Fur and Feather Association, Crowborough, Hailsham and District Fanciers' Association, and Stamford and District Horse and Poultry Society.

Correspondence.

Several letters were read and left in the hands of the Secretary to deal with.

Lantern Slides.

Mr. Bayliss reported that he had seen some specimen slides which he produced for the inspection of the Council. It was decided that Captain Allen be elected on the sub-committee, and that the matter be referred back to the sub-committee to consider the question of cost, etc.

Club Specials.

The Council then considered the various proposals sent in for extending the benefits now offered to the Members of the Club, and after considerable discussion the matter was referred back to the sub-committee for further consideration and report.

The next Meeting of the Council will be held at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, London, E.C., on Friday, July 11th, at 2 p.m. All prospective members names must reach the Hon. Sec. on or before July 3rd, and if residing in a County having a Branch through the Secretary of same. T. Threlford, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, 2, St. Luke's Square, Victoria Docks, London, E.

Preserving Eggs with Gasses for a year.

French scientists have discovered a new method of preserving eggs, which, they declare, will keep the eggs untainted and of the same delicate colour of the albumen for ten months. This method consists for the main part of the use of carbonic gas and compressed nitrogen.

The manner in which the work is done seems as though it were altogether too much trouble and too expensive, but it is claimed that the extra expense comes to no more than one shilling and eightpence per thousand eggs.

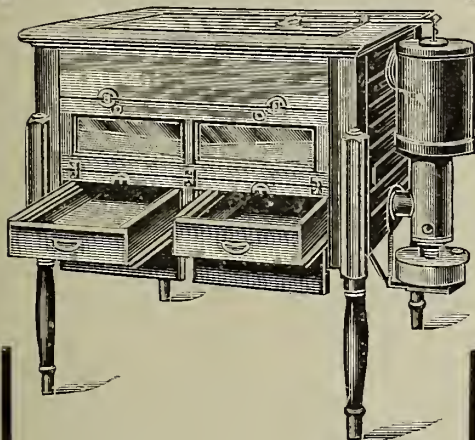
The eggs are placed in a tin-case holding five hundred each, and these cases are in wooden frames to enable them to be set in cold storage. First a little chlorate of lime is used to absorb the moisture; then the cover is soldered on, leaving a quarter of an inch hole. A vacuum is next produced, thereby removing all the air surrounding the eggs, and the gasses dissolved in their albumen.

Next, heated carbonic gas is introduced, a vacuum pump then removes part of this, and compressed nitrogen takes its place. A drop of solder then covers the hole in the cover, and the eggs are placed in cold storage at 35 degrees. By this means it is not necessary to bother about ventilation or the moisture of the air in the cold storage chamber. The advantages of this method, the discoverers claim, is that there is no evaporation at the surface of the egg, no oxidation, and no stale taste. The eggs may be eaten from the shell a year later, and the albumen still retains the fine whitish tint of the fresh egg. Furthermore, these eggs may be kept much longer after being taken from cold storage than the ordinary cold storage eggs. All bacteria is killed, and there are no mouldy or decayed eggs.

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TRADE ITEMS.

The Royal Agricultural Society's Show at Bristol, opening on the 1st July, and continuing till the 5th. There will be special train services from all parts.

We have received a copy of "The Encyclopædia of the Poultry Yard," by Vero Shaw, late editor of "Stock-keeper," and Kennel editor of the "Field." The book is well got up, and the information it contains ought to be of great service to poultry breeders. In addition to this, the book is highly illustrated, the illustrations being produced on good stout art paper. Altogether the work is one that we have pleasure in bringing to the notice of our readers. It is published at 5/- by Geo. Routledge & Sons, Ltd., London.

The Gloucester Incubator Co., ask us to mention that they will be exhibiting at the Royal Show at Bristol, and will be pleased to explain all about their famous incubators, and show their several improvements actually at work.

Mr. W. Holmes Hunt of Brook House Farm, Hellingly, Sussex, requests us to say that he will be pleased to see any of our readers who happen to be in his district, and show them over his farm. We can, from personal experience, say that their time would not be wasted, as in addition to the cordial welcome which Mr. Hunt knows too well how to give, the farm and the stock are well worth a visit.

The Secretary of the Table Poultry Club sends us the following letter:

To the Editor of 'The Illustrated Poultry Record.'

Dear Sir,—I am requested by my committee to ask you to please call the attention of your readers to the dead table-poultry section at the Women's Agricultural and Horticultural Society's Show at the Botanical Gardens, Regent's Park, on Thursday, July 10th, which this club has guaranteed. The classes provided are:—(1) couple of chickens pure breed; (2) couple of chickens cross pure breed; couple of ducklings, any breed. Entrance fee 1/6; prizes, 10/-, 5/-, 2/6. The club, in addition, will give medals for best pair of chickens and the best pair of ducks. The classes are open, but the medals will only be given to the exhibits of members of the club. The time for entering is now short, and it is hoped that a good response will result. I am also requested to say that arrangements have been made for staging the exhibits, and that entries from a distance will receive every proper attention. Thanking you.

57 Addison Mansions, Kensington, W.

Poultry Keeping for Ladies. The Wilderness Poultry Farm, Weeley Heath, Essex, conducted by Miss Winifred Slyn and Miss Maude Baynes, is run on extensive lines. The farm is 7½ acres in extent, and used for the production of table fowls. Only started in the spring, quantities of well-fattened fowls are being sent out.

Mr. Tamlin's Exports.

The following is a list of W. Tamlin's exports for May, 1913: Fifteen 60- and twelve 100-egg incubators, to J. F. Marshall, agent for the Transvaal, South Africa; ten 100-ten 60- and six 200- incubators, six 60- and six 100- foster mothers, to Goso & Martinez, agents for Argentina Republic; six 30-, fifteen 60-, twenty-five 100- and four 300-egg incubators; ten 60-, also six 100- foster mothers, to Messrs. Chandler, agents for Victoria, Australia; twelve 100- and six 60-egg incubators, to A. Newcomb & Co., agents for New Zealand; two 100- incubators, to Egerton, S. Africa, order of Finlay & Co.; one 100- incubator and one 100- foster mother, to the Falkland Islands, order of

Savell & Crowther; one 200 incubator, to Walker Bros., Colombo; two 100-incubators, to Rio de Janiero, order or Torroms, Sons & Co.; one 100- incubator to A. Hayles, Roumania; one 100- incubator and one 100- foster mother to Colombo, order of Mr. Idolph Glous; two 200 incubators to Valparaiso, order of Gillespie & Beales; one 100- incubator and one 100- foster mother to J. Franks, Durban, Natal.

R. Toope & Co.'s Exports.

Messrs. Toope's exports for the past week include one 1800-egg Mammoth incubator to Rhodesia; ten ordinary incubators from 25 to 300 capacity each, to Cape Town; six 60-egg and six 100-egg incubators to France; thirty incubators of various sizes to Belgium; and one 2,400 Mammoth to Sweden, this will also heat a 30ft. brooder at the same time.

OUR BOOK MARKET.

Any of the following books will be supplied at the prices named. Cash must always accompany orders.

Amateur Poultry - Keeper. By W. M. ELKINGTON. 120 pages. Fifteen illustrations. Price, 1/2 post free.

Incubators and their Management. By J. H. SUTCLIFFE. Fifth Edition. Illustrated. Price, post free, 1/2.

Lett's Poultry-Keeper's Account Book. Edited by LEWIS WRIGHT. Cr. 8vo. Post free in the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and foreign countries, 2/8.

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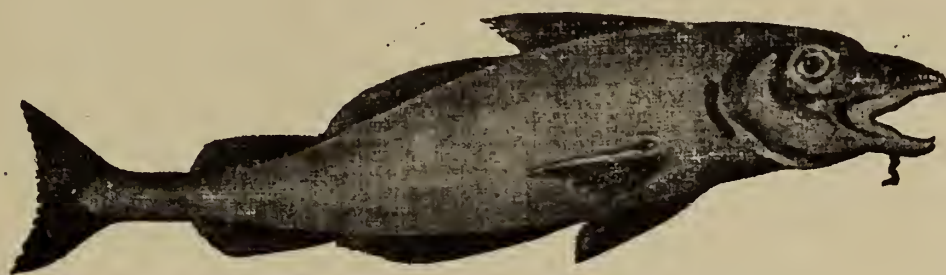
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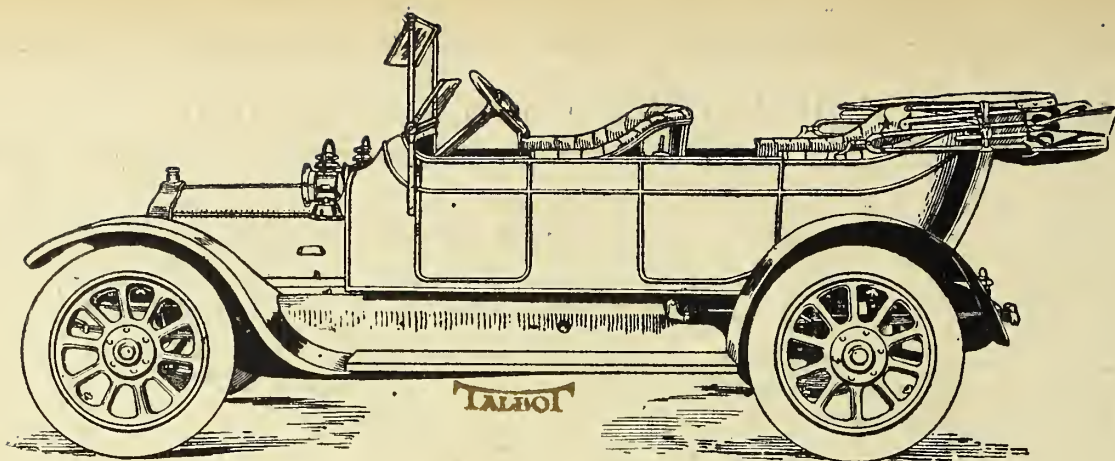
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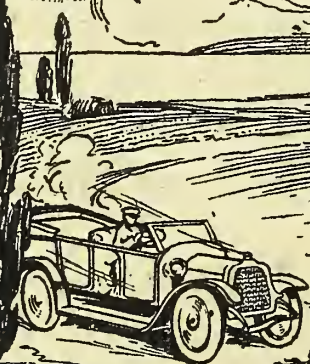
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